

**Cultural Resources Inventory of a Proposed Commercial Rock Quarry Site  
on Alkali Point, San Juan County, Utah.  
(SITLA materials lease permit ML48768)**

**by  
Winston Hurst**

**Submitted to the State of Utah  
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Utah State Antiquities Permit/Project Number  
U01-AS0487s**

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**August 8, 2001**

# **Cultural Resources Inventory of a Proposed Commercial Rock Quarry Site on Alkali Point, San Juan County, Utah.**

## **Introduction**

This report presents the findings of an intensive cultural resources inventory of a small parcel of land administered by the State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Administration (SITLA) on Alkali Point near Blanding, San Juan County, Utah (Figure 1). The parcel is the subject of a lease application by Sean Murphy of Blanding, who contracted Abajo Archaeology to conduct the survey in compliance with SITLA's lease process requirements. Murphy proposes to develop the property as a commercial quarry for building stone.

The parcel is located approximately 12 miles (20 km) southeast of Blanding within the area covered by the McCracken Spring USGS topographic quadrangle map (Figure 2). It consists of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 16, Township 38 South Range 24 E; and the adjacent E 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the same section. The parcel measures 311 m east west by 261 m north-south and encompasses one full 1/4 1/4 1/4 section (10 acres) and the eastern fourth of an adjacent 1/4 1/4 1/4 section, thus encompassing a total area of 12.4 acres (5 ha). The inventory was conducted by Winston Hurst on August 3 and 4, 2001, under Utah State antiquities permit number U01-AS0487s, issued to Abajo Archaeology. The project resulted in documentation of three archaeological sites and five isolated finds.

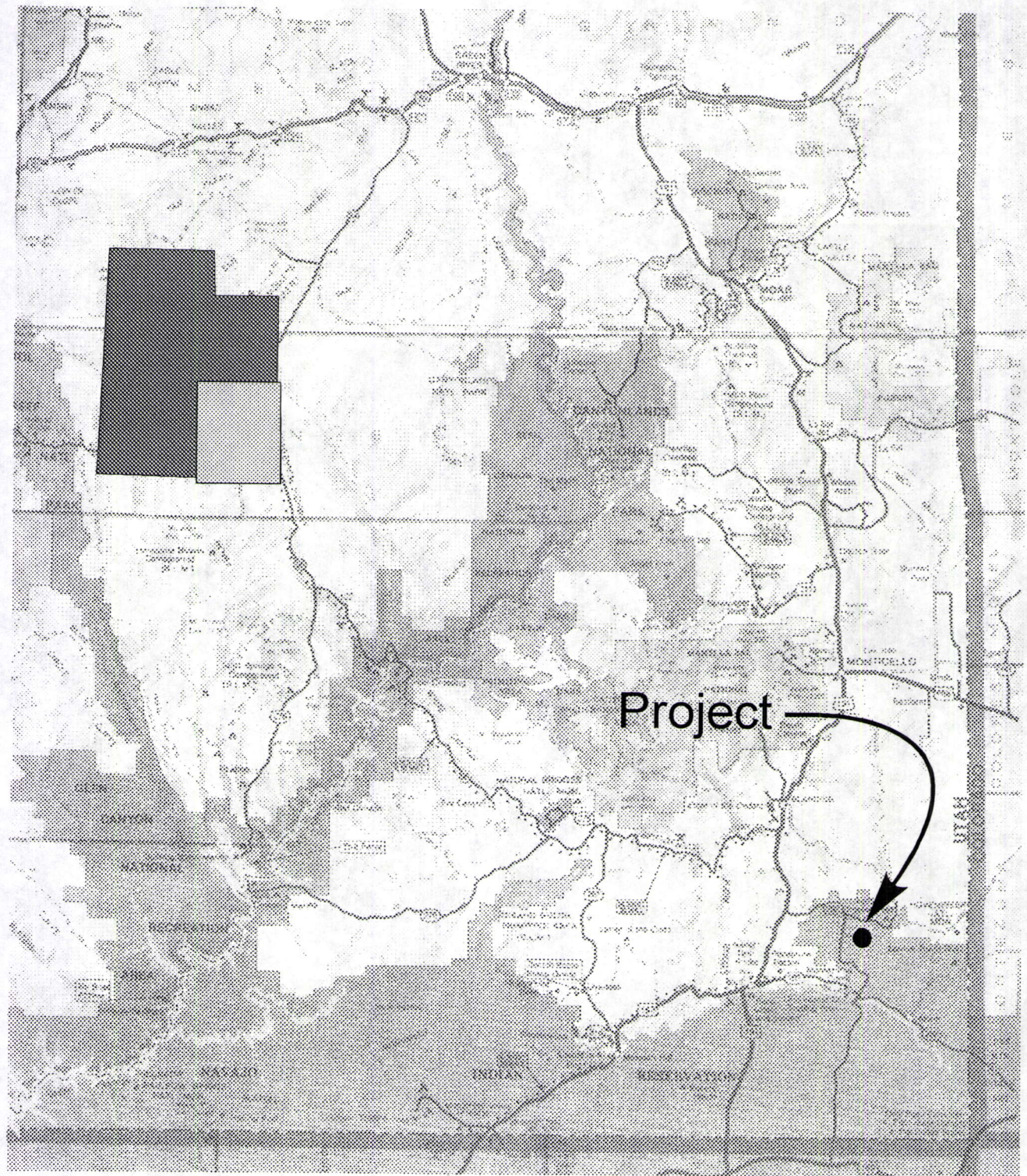
## **Environment**

The survey parcel is located at an elevation of approximately 5180 to 5340 feet above mean sea level on the east rim of a small, unnamed eastern tributary of Alkali Wash. Vegetation is dominated by mature growth of pinyon-juniper woodland with minimal understory. Topography is dominated by a low (2 to 6 m) sandstone rimrock cliff and associated talus slope; and a low, mesa-top, southward-trending ridge. Surface sediments are thin to nonexistent and rocky, including thin patches of aeolian loess (most common in the northern portion of the parcel), residual sand, clay/shale and outcrops of variably resistant sandstone and mudstone. These rocks are all mapped as Cretaceous Burro Canyon formation by Haynes, Vogel and Wyant (1972), and presumably represent the westward tailing out of that formation in an inter-fingering facies transition with the uppermost rocks of the underlying Brushy Basin member of the Jurassic-age Morrison Formation.

## **Previous Work**

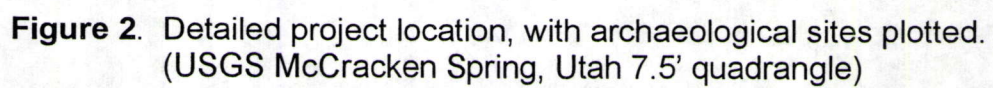
Prior to going into the field, an archaeological file search was performed in the files of the





**Figure 1.** Project location





**Figure 2.** Detailed project location, with archaeological sites plotted. (USGS McCracken Spring, Utah 7.5' quadrangle)



Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Resource Area office in Monticello.<sup>1</sup> The file search turned up only one previously recorded archaeological site in the vicinity, recorded by Barry Hibbetts of LaPlata Archaeological Consultants as part of a seismic-line clearance survey in 1986. That site, 42SA17713,<sup>2</sup> was slightly misplotted on the smaller-scale 15' topo sheet available at that time, a short distance northeast of the present parcel. It was relocated at the east edge of the survey parcel during the present project, and more precisely plotted with the help of a hand-held GPS instrument and the larger-scale topographic quadrangle sheet. The surrounding region has been the focus of numerous seismic, road, drill pad and other surveys, resulting in the recording of many sites. No review of that work is attempted here (for a general review of regional research and findings, see Hurst 1992, a copy of which is on file at Edge of the Cedars State Park). Although it focuses on southwestern Colorado, The recent survey volume by Lipe and others (1999) provides a useful, up-to-date cultural context overview that is generally applicable to the project area.

### Methodology

Parcel corners and boundaries were identified using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) instrument to locate Universal Transverse Mercator grid coordinates estimated by mapping the parcel onto a USGS topographic quad map and computing their UTM coordinates with a UTM template. Thus defined, the corners of the parcel were estimated at 651155 E / 4150060 N, 651155 E / 4149860 N, 650844 E / 4149860 N and 650844 E / 4150060 N (Zone 12). Parcel corners were flagged with red or orange flagging tied onto trees or shrubs at the point indicated by the GPS instrument. Intermittent flags were tied to trees at irregular intervals along the boundaries of the parcel as well, also located by GPS. The surface was examined for cultural resources to a distance of approximately 10 m beyond the flagged boundaries on all sides due to the possibility of plotting and measuring error in the UTM map measurement, and/or instrumental error on the part of the GPS unit. This added approximately 2.2 acres (.9 ha) to the surveyed area, for a total of 14.8 acres (5.9 ha).

In order to facilitate thorough coverage, the parcel was examined in natural topographic/geographic pieces divided and defined by such features as the canyon rim, the road, the break in slope at the edges of the ridge top, a prominent drainage, and so forth. Within each such piece, the surface was systematically examined by walking through it in zigzag pattern, until the spacing between lines of footprints exceeded no more than 10 m maximum. This spacing is

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<sup>1</sup>The Utah Division of State History maintains a master site file of all recorded archaeological sites in the state. The local Bureau of Land Management office maintains a duplicate file for San Juan County, in order to facilitate local file searches and as a backup in the event of catastrophic damage or loss of the State's records.

<sup>2</sup>The state of Utah utilizes the Smithsonian Institution's system for identifying archaeological sites and organizing site data throughout the state. "42" is the number for Utah (the 42<sup>nd</sup> state on the Smithsonian's list), "SA" signifies San Juan County, and the following number is a serial number of sites recorded within the county. This is therefore the 17713th site to be officially assigned a number in San Juan county. Numbers are assigned and master files maintained by the Utah Division of State History in Salt Lake City.



adequate to ensure that no sites were overlooked, and to minimize the likelihood that significant isolated finds were missed.

Although the archaeological record is light in the survey parcel, the inventory resulted in identification of one previously recorded site, two unrecorded sites and five isolated finds (IFs). The sites were photographed with color print film; plotted on a 400% enlargement from the USGS topo quad map with the help of the hand-held GPS instrument; mapped using hand-held compass and pacing; and recorded on Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) forms. Each site was tagged with a solid aluminum tag, engraved with the site number, the date of recording, the recorder's name and his institutional affiliation.name. Tags were either tied with stainless steel wire to a 1/2 inch steel rebar stake or nailed with a galvanized steel nail to a juniper tree limb, at a location identified on the site map. Isolated finds were assigned a serial IF-number, plotted on the topo map, minimally described and, in one case, photographed. Primary copies of site forms and this report will be filed at the Utah State Division of History, Antiquities Section, in Salt Lake City. Original field records including photographic negatives are curated in the author's personal project files.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

Three archaeological sites and five isolated finds were documented in the course of the survey. Site locations are shown on Figures 2 and 3, and IF locations are shown on Figure 3. The sites and isolated finds will be discussed in turn, with significance assessment and management recommendations. These findings are summarized in tables 1 and 2. accompanying table.

#### **Site 42SA17713 (Figure 4)**

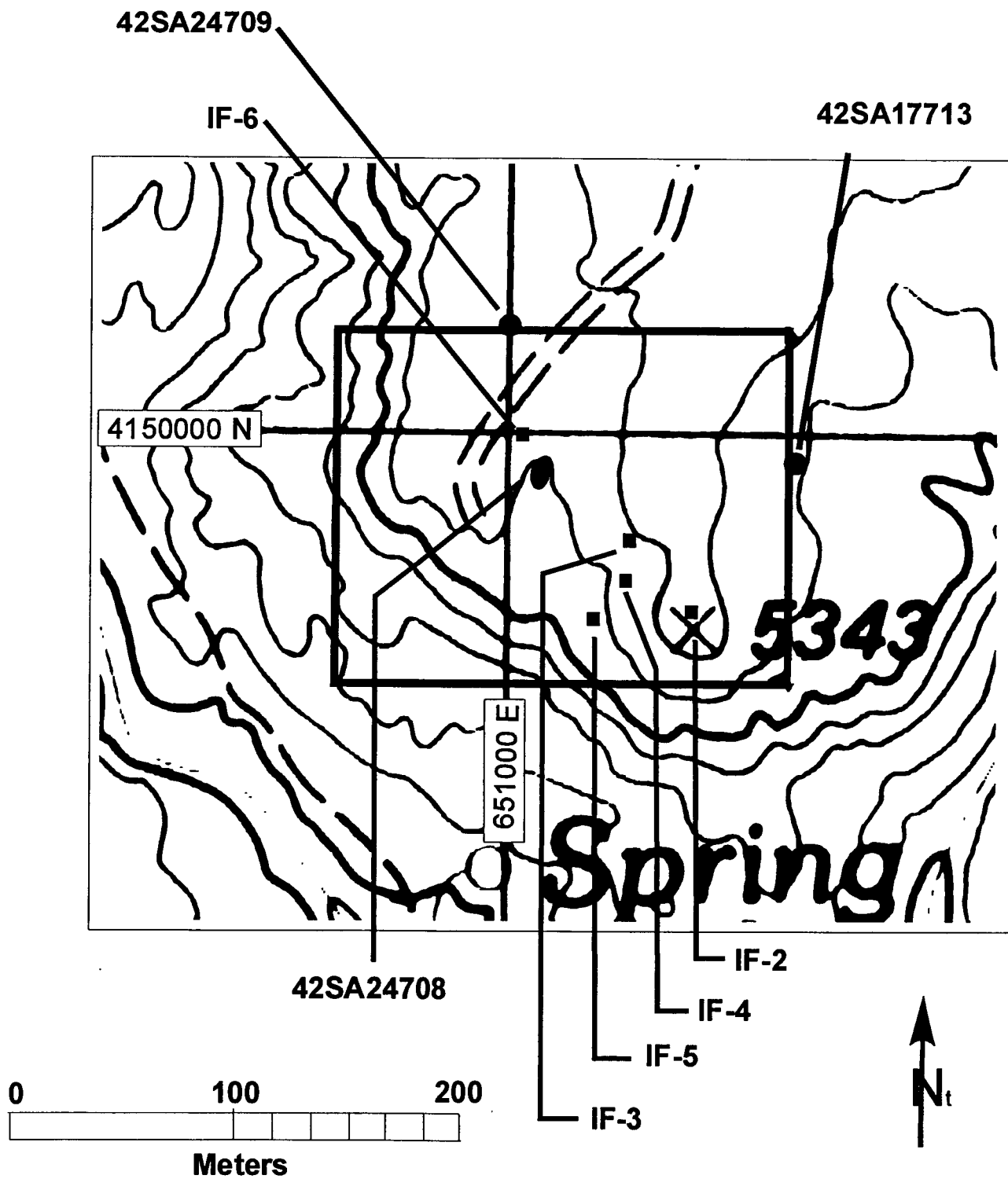
##### Location and environment

This previously recorded site is located at UTM (Zone 12) coordinates 651160 E / 4149975 N, at the east edge of the parcel boundary on the east slope of the ridge, where the steeper, upper slope gives way to a gentler, lower slope. Site elevation is 5320 feet. The ground slope on site is approximately 4°. Local surface sediments are shallow, residual and aeolian with numerous rock inclusions including sandstone slabs up to 25 cm long and pebbles from decomposed conglomerate. Vegetation is dominated by climax pinyon-juniper forest up to ~5 m high, with very little understory. Surface disturbance indicative of seismic exploration is evident within about 40 m to the south of the site.

##### Description and interpretation

Site 42SA17713 is a discrete, ca. 15 m diameter, slightly mounded, dense concentration of hundreds of sandstone slabs and 60+ potsherds in a matrix of ashy sediment. Many of the slabs are oxidized from heat. There are no evident patterns in the slab distribution to indicate





**Figure 3.** Enlarged topographic map of project with archaeological site and isolated find locations. (Enlarged from USGS McCracken Spring 7.5' quadrangle).



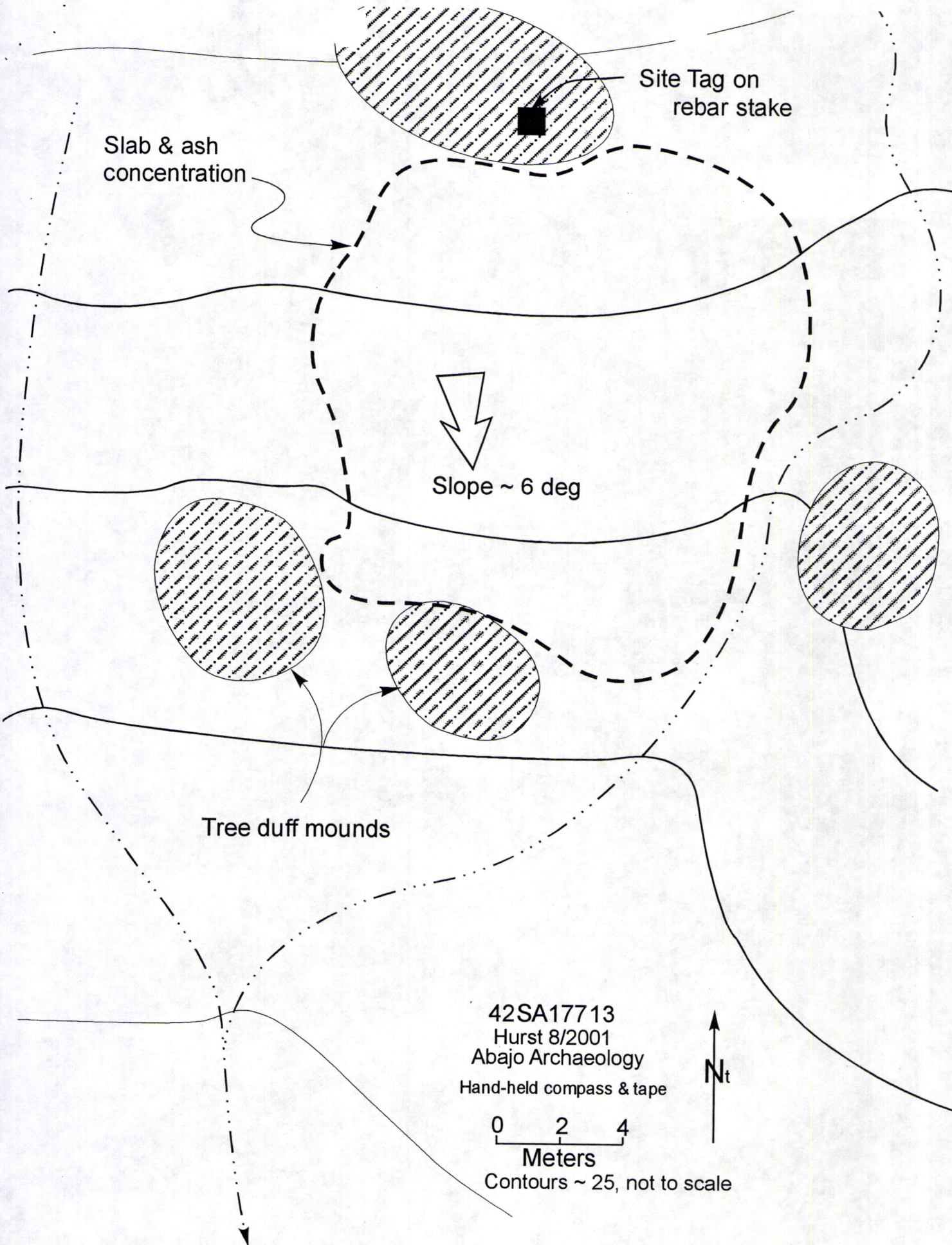


Figure 4. 42SA17713 site map.



architectural remains. The ceramics are all white ware, representing at least 5 different bowls, one ladle and one jar. Ceramic types include Mancos Black-on-white in the Dogoszhi and *cf.* Black Mesa decorative styles (Colton 1953:47-49; Lucius and Breternitz 1992:22-25), Mesa Verde Black-on-white, undifferentiated intermediate white ware (San Juan White Ware *sensu* Abel 1954) and undifferentiated late white ware (Mesa Verde White Ware *sensu* Abel 1954). Two sherds from a McElmo Black-on-white bowl were found near the site, at about 15 m to the north and south of the rock concentration. No other artifacts of any kind were observed on or in the vicinity of the site. Both the Mancos Black-on-white and the later McElmo and Mesa Verde sherds are classic and comfortable specimens of their respective types, with no transitional properties except for some painted dots on the tapered rim of a Mancos bowl. This can be interpreted to represent a single use episode around A.D. 1200 (middle Pueblo III, end of Mancos production, early years of classic Mesa Verde Black-on-white production) or (more likely, in my opinion) two use episodes during the A.D. 1000s-early 1100s (late Pueblo II period) and the A.D. 1200s (mid-late Pueblo III period). Except for natural erosion and weathering processes, this site appears to be in relatively good condition. If it has been shuffled by looters, the digging was not done recently, and it was done in a manner that left the site gently and uniformly mounded. Based on the morphology of the mounded sediments, the maximum depth of cultural deposits is estimated at about 30 cm, though intrusive pit features may extend deeper than that..

This site was originally recorded by Barry Hibbetts of La Plata Archaeological Consultants in 1986, in connection with the cultural clearance of a seismic exploration line. Even though Hibbetts's site tag could not be located and I differ somewhat in my assessment of the artifact assemblage and site location, nearby evidence of seismic activity and scattered bits of blue flagging around the site perimeter attest to the fact that the site was previously recorded during a seismic project. More importantly, I was able to duplicate Hibbetts's single photograph, looking northeast across the rock/ash concentration to some distinctive background features.

The function of this site is unclear. An absence of either burned daub or patterning in the burned slabs suggests something other than a habitation structure. Hibbetts suggested that it may have been some kind of anomalous ceramic firing kiln, though his observation that the associated ceramics were "all heavily burned" was erroneous (while well fired, none exhibited evidence of extreme overfiring or atmospheric misfiring). Its location in gently sloping woodland adjacent to a small drainage is a typical setting for a trench kiln, and Hibbetts may be right, though the size of the burned slab scatter bespeaks firing on an unusually large scale or an unusually repetitive usage, and no kiln structure is visible in the rubble. Since well-developed, slab-lined trench kilns commonly date to the Pueblo III period, it is possible that this more-amorphous feature represents an earlier style of ceramic kiln or kiln complex associated with the Pueblo II ceramic assemblage on the site.

### Significance

Site 42SA17713 is deemed archaeologically significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under the Secretary of the Interior's criteria C ("...



embody[s] the distinctive characteristics of a type, period [etc.] . . .”) and D (is “likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.”). If this is a kiln site, it is a type of kiln that has not been studied, and likely dates in part to a time period for which identified pottery firing kilns are rare and poorly studied. If it is not a kiln, it is a class of site about which we have virtually no information.

### Recommendations

42SA17713 is located at the east edge of the parcel, across the ridge from the primary quarry location. It can be easily avoided, and should be. If surface impacting operations are undertaken in that part of the parcel, a protective buffer should be flagged to a distance of 10 m surrounding the rock and ash pile, and the area inside the flagging left undisturbed. Winston Hurst of Abajo Archaeology will be available on call to assist with the flagging at no cost. If the site cannot be avoided, mitigative measures in the form of excavation, full data recovery and documentation are recommended.

### **Site 42SA24708 (Figure 5)**

#### Location and environment

This newly recorded site is located at UTM (Zone 12) coordinates 651019 E / 4149979 N, in a small, southward trending drainage between the ridge on the east and the canyon rim on the west. Site elevation is 5320 feet. Local surface sediments are variable, including a pinkish native clay, sandy wash sediments, patches of aeolian loess and residual sandy loam with abundant small stone inclusions. Depth to native sandstone bedrock nowhere exceeds about 20 cm. Vegetation is mostly barren, with widely scattered pinyon-juniper trees, snakeweed, Mormon Tea and stunted cliffrose.

#### Description and interpretation

Site 42SA24708 is a small scatter of ceramic sherds, an amorphous scatter of very small sandstone slabs and a very subtle ash stain concentrated in a 20 by 10 m area along and between two branches of a very small, southward-trending wash. The ash stain is a very faintly discolored area of sediment roughly 1.5 m in diameter, approximately in the center of the 7 by 4 m area of scattered slabs. Subsurface finger probes disclosed that these deposits are essentially superficial, with somewhat more darkly-stained sediments extending up to ca. 5 cm below surface and overlying native bedrock and clay. Ceramics represent at least three McElmo Black-on-white bowls, a Mesa Verde White Ware ladle and two corrugated pots of unidentified type (no diagnostic rims). This assemblage indicates that the site was in use sometime during the Pueblo III period. (A.D. 1150 -1280). The site appears to be completely deflated, with little or no likelihood of significant intact buried feature remains or deposits. It may represent the residual remains of a completely eroded ceramic firing kiln or campsite.

**42SA24708**

Abajo Archaeology

W. Hurst

8/2001

compass & pace

▲ Potsherd (#s  
correspond with  
photo captions)

0 2 4  
Meters

Contours not to scale

Pink  
clay  
exposure

Area of scattered slabs

Faint ash  
stain

Site boundary

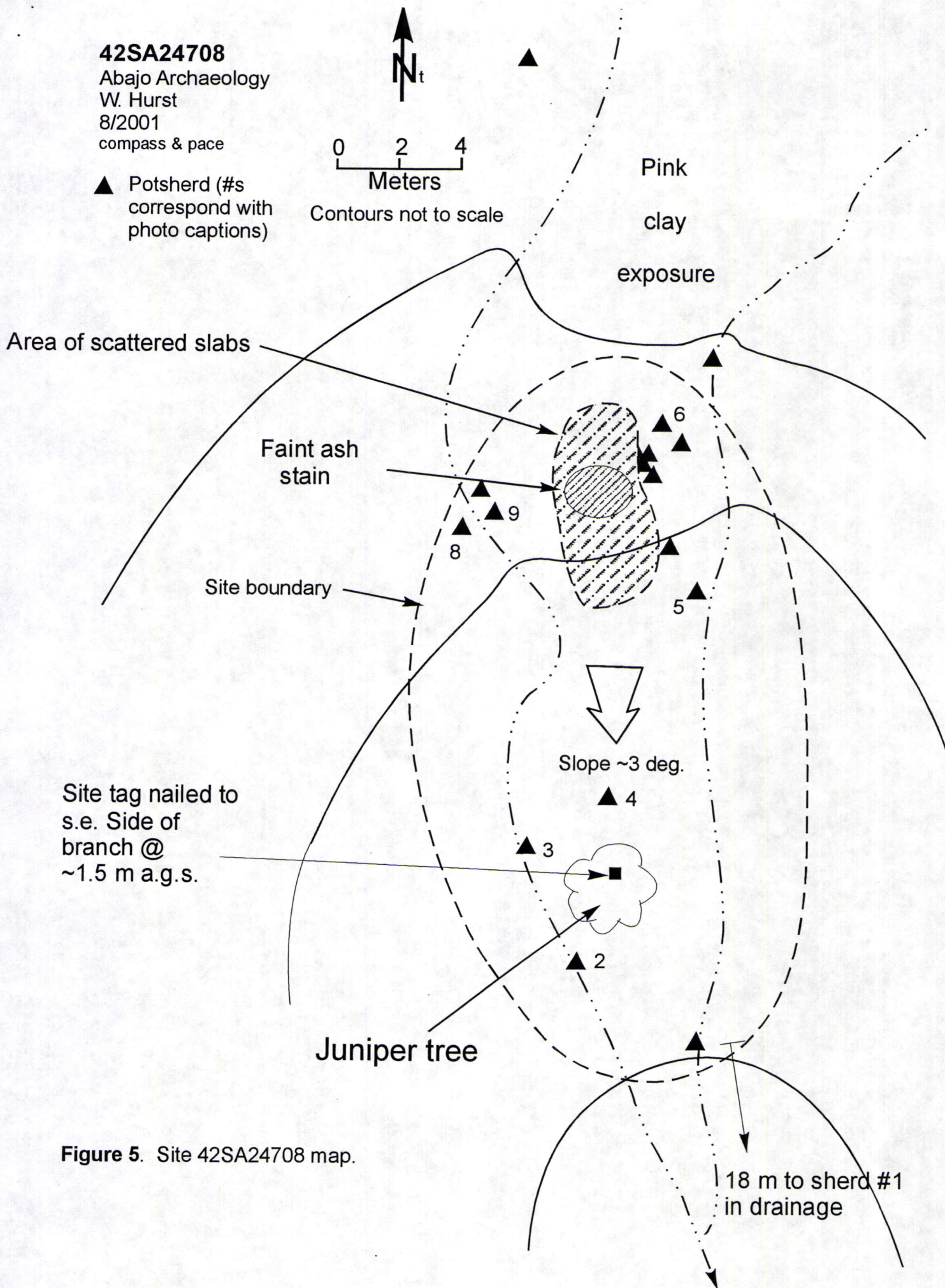
Site tag nailed to  
s.e. Side of  
branch @  
~1.5 m a.g.s.

Slope ~3 deg.

Juniper tree

Figure 5. Site 42SA24708 map.

18 m to sherd #1  
in drainage





### Significance

It is very unlikely that further exploration of 42SA24708 would contribute any significant information beyond what has been captured in the IMACS recording. A radiocarbon date could be derived from the ashy sediments, but it would not yield a date more precise than the ceramic stylistic cross-date, would likely be erroneous due to the "old-wood" problem, and would lack any meaningful context. Because of its poor condition, this site is not deemed archaeologically significant or eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under any of Interior's criteria.

### Recommendations

No further work on the site is recommended. If the lease is granted for quarry operations, there is no reason why efforts should be taken to preserve this site or subject it to further data recovery.

### **Site 42SA24709 (Figure 6)**

#### Location and environment

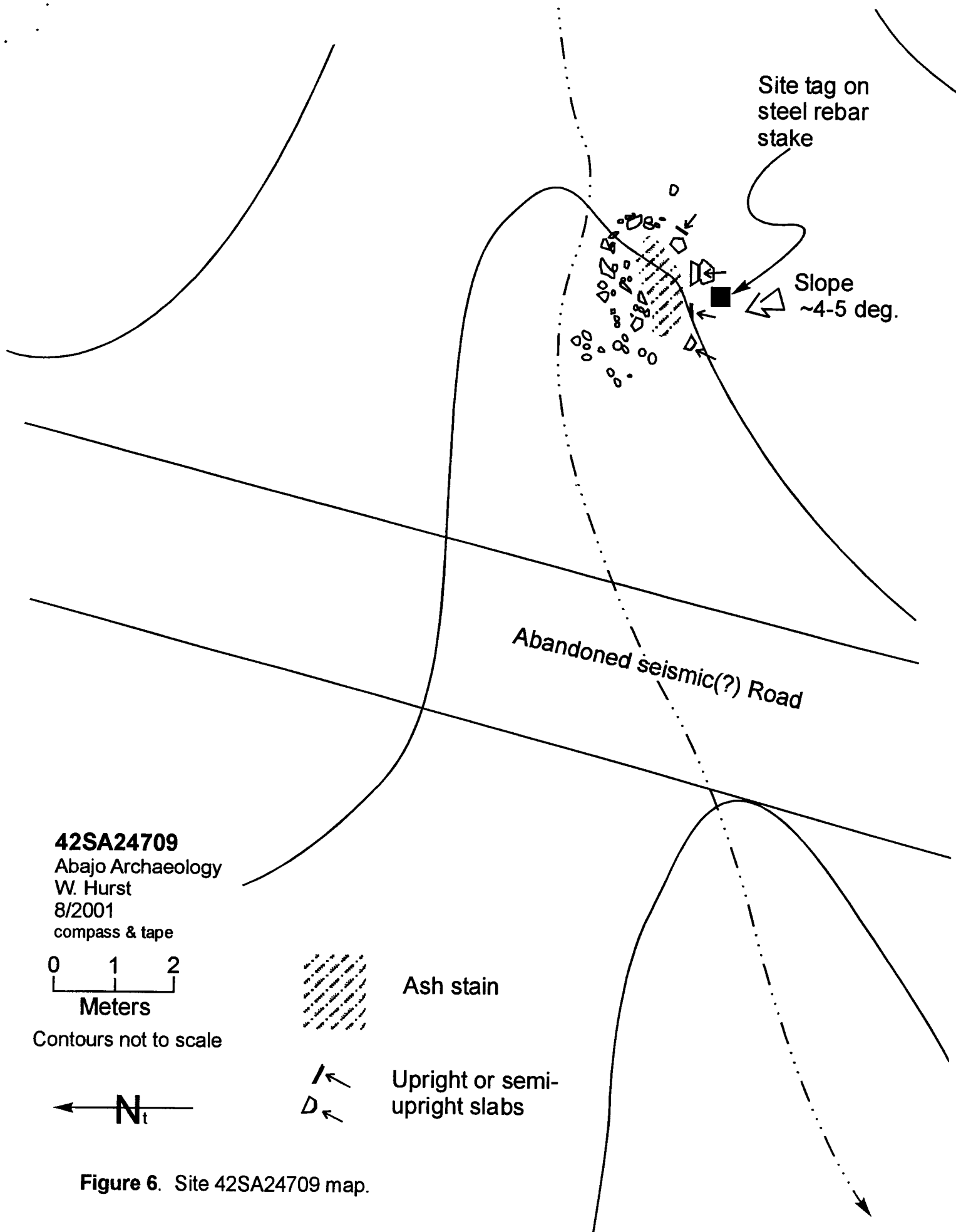
This newly recorded site is located at UTM (Zone 12) coordinates 651000 E / 4150077 N, at the north edge of the survey parcel. Site elevation is 5330 feet. The setting is a gentle north slope adjacent to the south side of a small, ephemeral drainage channel that drains westward toward the canyon rim, ca. 20-30 m to the west. Local surface sediments are predominantly thin, residual sandy loam with numerous small sandstone and pebble inclusions overlying sandstone bedrock. Vegetation is sparse, including widely scattered pinyon and juniper trees, cliffrose, Mormon tea, narrow-leaf yucca, snakeweed and several low, unidentified annuals. An old, abandoned road, presumably a seismic trail, passes by the west edge of the site.

#### Description and interpretation

This site is a small, subrectangular ash stain and slab scatter, partly outlined with upright or semi-upright sandstone slabs. It is identical to trench kilns that have been documented in Colorado (e.g. Fuller 1984) and west of Comb Ridge (e.g. Helm 1973). This feature appears to have measured approximately 2 m long by 1-1.3 m wide, its long dimension oriented east-west. No artifacts of any kind were observed on the feature or in the near vicinity. A finger probe revealed dark, charcoal-rich sediments extending to a depth of at least 20 cm, indicating that there are intact buried deposits.

### Significance

Though small and unimpressive, 42SA24709 is deemed significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D. There is a high



**Figure 6.** Site 42SA24709 map.



likelihood that excavation would yield information sufficient to determine the feature's age and function. If it is a kiln, it has the potential to contribute to our understanding of ceramic production technology in this part of the Northern San Juan region. If it is not a kiln, it has the potential to broaden our understanding of the variability through time and across space in the various functions served by these kinds of features.

### Recommendations

This site can be easily avoided, located as it is on (possibly outside of) the northern boundary of the lease parcel. It is recommended that, should surface disturbance encroach on this location, a buffer zone be flagged to a distance of 10 m surrounding the feature on the north, east and south sides and to the road disturbance on the west side, and that the area within this perimeter be protected from disturbance. Winston Hurst of Abajo Archaeology will be available on call to assist with the flagging at no cost. If avoidance is impossible, excavation and full data recovery and documentation are recommended.

### **Isolated Finds**

Five isolated finds (Ifs) were documented within the survey parcel, outside the boundaries of the recorded sites. These include two core-like fragments of a tested chert cobble, the bit end of a broken stone axe, a sherd concentration from a single pot-drop, an ash stain with no associated artifacts, and a 12 m, linear concentration of three sherds and two interior chert flakes. Further details on these finds are presented in Table 2. None of the isolated finds is deemed significant enough to warrant further investigation.

### **Summary and Conclusions**

Intensive pedestrian survey of a 15-acre parcel of Utah State Institutional Trust Lands on Alkali Point was conducted by Winston Hurst of Abajo Archaeology for Sean Murphy in connection with Murphy's application to lease the parcel for development as a commercial rock quarry. The survey resulted in the identification and documentation of three small archaeological sites and six isolated finds. One of the sites is typical late Pueblo II - Pueblo III period ceramic firing kiln. The other sites and one of the isolated finds may also represent remnants of ceramic firing features. The isolated finds include several isolated potsherds, a pot break, an axe head fragment, two tested cobble fragments and a badly deflated ash stain with no associated artifacts. Lithic artifacts of any kind are nearly nonexistent in the parcel. Ceramic styles attest to usage during the late Pueblo II and Pueblo III periods, between about A.D. 1000/1050 and the late 1200s. Surface indications suggest that this locality was used seasonally for production of ceramics, although excavation would be required to confirm or refute that interpretation.

Two of the sites in the parcel (42SA17713 and 42SA24709) are deemed significant but are located at the edge of the parcel where they can and should be easily be avoided. If and when any



kind of surface-disturbing activity encroaches within 100 feet of the north or east boundary of the parcel, a no-traffic protective area extending 10 m around each site should be flagged for avoidance. Winston Hurst of Abajo Archaeology will be available on call to assist with the flagging at no cost. If these sites cannot be avoided, they should be subjected to mitigative excavation prior to being impacted. The third site (42SA24708) is deteriorated beyond value, and neither it nor any of the IFs is deemed significant enough to interfere with plans to develop the quarry. It is recommended that clearance for the project be granted, providing that appropriate measures are taken to protect sites 42SA17713 and 42SA24709.

**Table 1: Archaeological Sites**

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Location</u> (UTM Zone 12)	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Cultural</u> <u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Significant?</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
42SA17713	651160 E 4149975 N	climax pinyon- juniper E slope	late Pueblo II, Pueblo III	Kiln? 15 m diameter concentration of burned slabs, ash and ceramics	yes	avoid or excavate
42SA24708	651019 E 4149979 N	sparse pinyon- juniper, in interior drainage swale	Pueblo III	deflated kiln or campsite?	no	clear for destruction
42SA24709	651000 E 4150077 N	sparse pinyon- juniper, gentle north slope adjacent to small drainage	Unknown, probably Pueblo III			avoid or excavate



**Table 2: Isolated finds**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u> ( <u>UTM Zone</u> <u>12</u> )	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>recommendations</u>
IF-1		Not Assigned	(Originally assigned to a sherd associated with site 42SA17713)	
IF-2	651103 E 4149914 N	On top of ridge, several m north of high point (elev. pt. on map), on residual clay with broken sandstone	two core-like nodules of white chert, one with cobble cortex remnant. Both chunks are multi-faceted. No flakes noted in the area.	Clear for destruction
IF-3	651067 E 4149924 N	on west slope of ridge just below crumbling caprock sandstone, on residual clay with abundant surface sandstone fragments. Pinyon-juniper woodland with sparse understory of scattered small shrubs.	Bit-end fragment of a small, polished stone axe, grayish-purple mudstone. ~6.5 cm long, 6 cm wide, 3 cm thick. Bit is well formed, polished.	Clear for destruction
IF-4	651057 E 4149910 N	On west slope of ridge in open pinyon-juniper woodland, rocky residual soil	Pot drop; appr. 15 sherds of a lightly polished fine gray ware or darkly fired and unslipped white ware pot, no paint. Probably a medium-sized jar. Scattered through a 15 m long by 3 m wide area running downslope.	Clear for destruction
IF-5	651046 E 4149894 N	On west slope of ridge near east edge of an entrenching wash. Residual sandy clay sediments with numerous sandstone inclusions.	Isolated ash stain ~ 1 m diameter with some random, small slabs, no associated artifacts.	Clear for destruction

IF-6	651002 E 4150002 N	On gentle eastward slope between small southward-trending wash to east and canyon rim to west. Surface sediments residual sandy loam with numerous sandstone inclusions. Vegetation dominated by pinyon-juniper with sparse understory.	3 sherds and 2 flakes in a 12 m line running downslope nw - se. The sherds include 2 McElmo B-w and 1 corrugated body. Flakes are both tertiary flakes, one of Morrison chert, the other of an unidentified brown-gray variegated material.	None
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**IMACS SITE FORM****PART A - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**

1. **STATE NO.:** 42SA24708
2. **AGENCY NO.:**
3. **TEMP NO.:**
4. **STATE:** Utah **COUNTY:** San Juan
5. **PROJECT:** Sean Murphy Alkali Point rock quarry survey (SITLA materials lease ML48768)
6. **REPORT NO.:** U01-AS0487s
7. **SITE NAME/PROPERTY NAME:**
8. **CLASS:** ☒ **PREHISTORIC** ☐ **HISTORIC** ☐ **PALEONTOLOGIC**  
☐ **ETHNOGRAPHIC**
9. **SITE TYPE:** kiln? Campsite? Ash stain and sherd scatter
10. **ELEVATION:** 5320 ft
11. **UTM GRID:** Zone 12 651019 m E 4149979 m N
12. **[ NE ] 1/4 OF [ SW ] 1/4 OF [ NW ] 1/4 OF SECTION [ 16 ] T. [ 38 ] S. R. [ 24 ] E.**
13. **MERIDIAN:** Salt Lake
14. **MAP REFERENCE:** McCracken Springs, Utah (7.5' prov. 1989)
15. **AERIAL PHOTO:**
16. **LOCATION AND ACCESS:** Thirteen miles southeast of Blanding on Alkali Point. Follow San Juan County southeast from Blanding across Mustang Mesa and Alkali Wash onto Alkali Point, continue east appr. 2.5 miles, turn right (southeast) onto bladed county road, proceed 1.5 miles to point where road intersects powerline at turn in powerline. Turn right, follow dirt road for appr. 1.3 miles to end of road, in rock quarry area on canyon rim. Walk east-northeast ~20-30 m, into site, in small, ephemeral, south-facing drainage immediately south of pink clay exposure.
17. **LAND OWNER:** State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
18. **FEDERAL ADMIN. UNITS:**
19. **LOCATION OF CURATED MATERIALS:** none
20. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Site 42SA24708 is a small scatter of ceramic sherds, an amorphous scatter of very small sandstone slabs and a very subtle ash stain concentrated in a 20 by 10 m area along and between two branches of a very small, southward-trending wash. The ash stain is a very faintly discolored area of sediment roughly 1.5 m in diameter, approximately in the center of the 7 by 4 m area of scattered slabs. Subsurface finger probes disclosed that these deposits are essentially superficial, with somewhat more darkly-stained sediments extending up to ca. 5 cm below surface and overlying native bedrock and clay. Ceramics represent at least three McElmo Black-on-white bowls, a Mesa Verde White Ware ladle and two corrugated pots of unidentified type (no diagnostic rims). This assemblage indicates that the site was in use sometime during the Pueblo III period. (A.D. 1150 -1280). The site appears to be completely deflated, with little or no likelihood of significant intact buried feature remains or deposits. It may represent the residual remains of a completely eroded ceramic firing kiln or campsite.
21. **SITE CONDITION:** ☐ **EXCELLENT (A)** ☐ **GOOD (B)** ☐ **FAIR (C)**  
☒ **POOR (D)**
22. **IMPACT AGENT(S):** natural erosion, likely surface collection
23. **NAT. REGISTER STATUS:** ☐ **SIGNIFICANT (C)** ☒ **NON-SIGNIFICANT (D)** ☐ **UNEVALUATED (Z)**  
**JUSTIFY:** Site is almost completely deflated, only ephemeral and superficial ashy sediment remains. It is very unlikely that further exploration of 42SA24708 would contribute any



significant information beyond what has been captured in the IMACS recording. A radiocarbon date could be derived from the ashy sediments, but it would not yield a date more precise than the ceramic stylistic cross-date, would likely be erroneous due to the "old-wood" problem, and would lack any meaningful context. Because of its poor condition, this site is not deemed archaeologically significant or eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under any of Interior's criteria.

- 24. **PHOTOS:** 1/10 -1/12
- 25. **RECORDED BY:** Winston Hurst
- 26. **SURVEY ORGANIZATION:** Abajo Archaeology
- 27. **ASSISTING CREW MEMBERS:** None
- 28. **SURVEY DATE:** 8/2/2001

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:** ☒ **PART B** ☐ **PART C** ☐ **PART E**  
☒ **TOPO MAP** ☐ **ARTIFACT/FEATURE SKETCH** ☒ **SITE SKETCH**  
☐ **CONTINUATION SHEETS** ☒ **PHOTOS** ☐ **OTHER:**

### PART A - ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

- 29. **SLOPE:** ☒ **6** **(DEGREES)** **ASPECT** ☒ **180** **(DEGREES)**
- 30. **DISTANCE TO PERMANENT WATER:** ☒ **2** **X 100 Meters**  
**TYPE OF WATER SOURCE:** ☒ **SPRING/SEEP (A)** ☐ **STREAM/RIVER (B)** ☐  
**LAKE (C)** ☐ **OTHER (D)**  
**NAME OF WATER SOURCE:** Unnamed small spring 200 m southwest
- 31. **GEOGRAPHIC UNIT:** Blanding Basin
- 32. **TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION**  
**PRIMARY LANDFORM:** Tableland/mesa (C)  
**SECONDARY LANDFORM:** Ephemeral wash (4)  
**DESCRIBE:** in a shallow, gently-sloping ephemeral wash, between two drainage rills. Ca. 25 m to the south, the wash begins to entrench at the canyon rim of a small unnamed eastern tributary of Alkali Wash.
- 33. **ON-SITE DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT:** Stream bed (R), Residual (U)  
**DESCRIPTION OF SOIL:** clayey sand in wash channels, thin residual (and aeolian?) Sandy loam between rivulets except immediately north and northeast of site, where geologic clay beds are exposed.
- 34. **VEGETATION**  
**A. LIFE ZONE:** Upper Sonoran (E)  
**B. COMMUNITY - PRIMARY ON-SITE:** barren (R)  
**SECONDARY ON-SITE:** Pinyon-juniper woodland (H)  
**SURROUNDING SITE:** Pinyon-juniper  
**DESCRIBE:** Area is covered by climax pinyon-juniper forest with little understory. Vegetation is largely absent on the site, limited to one juniper tree and very sparse snakeweed clumps with juniper trees adjacent to it. Other plants in the immediate vicinity include stunted cliffrose, prickly pear and narrow-leaf yucca.
- 35. **MISCELLANEOUS TEXT:**
- 36. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**



## PART B - PREHISTORIC SITES

1. **SITE TYPE:** Kiln? Campsite? Ash stain and sherd scatter
2. **CULTURE - CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** Anasazi Pueblo III  
**DATING METHOD:** Ceramic cross-dating  
**DESCRIBE:** exclusively McElmo Black-on-white and undiff Mesa Verde White Ware
3. **SITE DIMENSIONS:** [ 22 ] M by [ 12 ] M **AREA = [ 200 ] SQ M**
4. **SURFACE COLLECTION/METHOD:** None
5. **ESTIMATED DEPTH OF CULTURAL FILL:** <10 cm  
**HOW ESTIMATED (IF TESTED, SHOW LOCATION ON SITE MAP):** finger probe into ash stain
6. **EXCAVATION STATUS:** [ ] EXCAVATED (A) [ ] TESTED (B)  
[ X ] UNEXCAVATED (C)  
**TESTING METHOD:**
7. **SUMMARY OF ARTIFACTS AND DEBRIS:**
  - 1 ceramic scatter (CS)
  - 1 burned slab scatter (BS)**DESCRIBE:** sparse scatter of very small slabs (up to ca. 2 cm thick & 15 cm long), some burned, in an area approximately 6 m long by 3 m wide. No evident patterning, none upright.
8. **LITHIC TOOLS:** None observed
9. **LITHIC DEBITAGE - ESTIMATED QUANTITY:** (A=none, B=1-9, C=10-25, D=25-100, E=100-500, F=500+, Z=unk.) None observed  
**MATERIAL TYPE:**  
**FLAKING STAGES:** (0) NOT PRESENT (1) RARE (2) COMMON (3) DOMINANT  
[ 0 ] DECORTICATION [ 0 ] SECONDARY [ 0 ] TERTIARY [ 0 ] SHATTER  
[ 0 ] CORE
10. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (ALL LITHICS):** 0
11. **CERAMIC ARTIFACTS:**

#	TYPE
1	McElmo Black-on-white cf. Sosi style bowl heavy mineral paint
1	McElmo Black-on-white cf. Sosi style bowl carbon paint
12	Mesa Verde White Ware (Abel) bowls including 3 carbon paint
1	Mesa Verde White Ware (Abel) ladle
3	corrugated body sherds

**DESCRIBE:** Scatter represents at least four white ware bowls, a ladle and at least two corrugated pots.
12. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (CERAMICS):** 2
13. **NON-ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):**  
**DESCRIBE:**
  - 1 slab scatter (FC)
  - 1 ash stain (SG)
14. **ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):** None  

#	MATERIAL	TYPE
---	----------	------

**DESCRIBE:**
15. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**



**IMACS ENCODING FORM**  
To be completed for each site form.  
For instructions and codes, see IMACS Users Guide.

Encoder's Name WINSTON HURST

## LETTERING GUIDE

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0



**42SA24708**

Abajo Archaeology

W. Hurst

8/2001

compass & pace

▲ Sherd (#s  
correspond  
with photo  
captions)

0 2 4  
Meters

Contours not to scale

Pink

clay

exposure

Area of scattered slabs

Faint ash  
stain

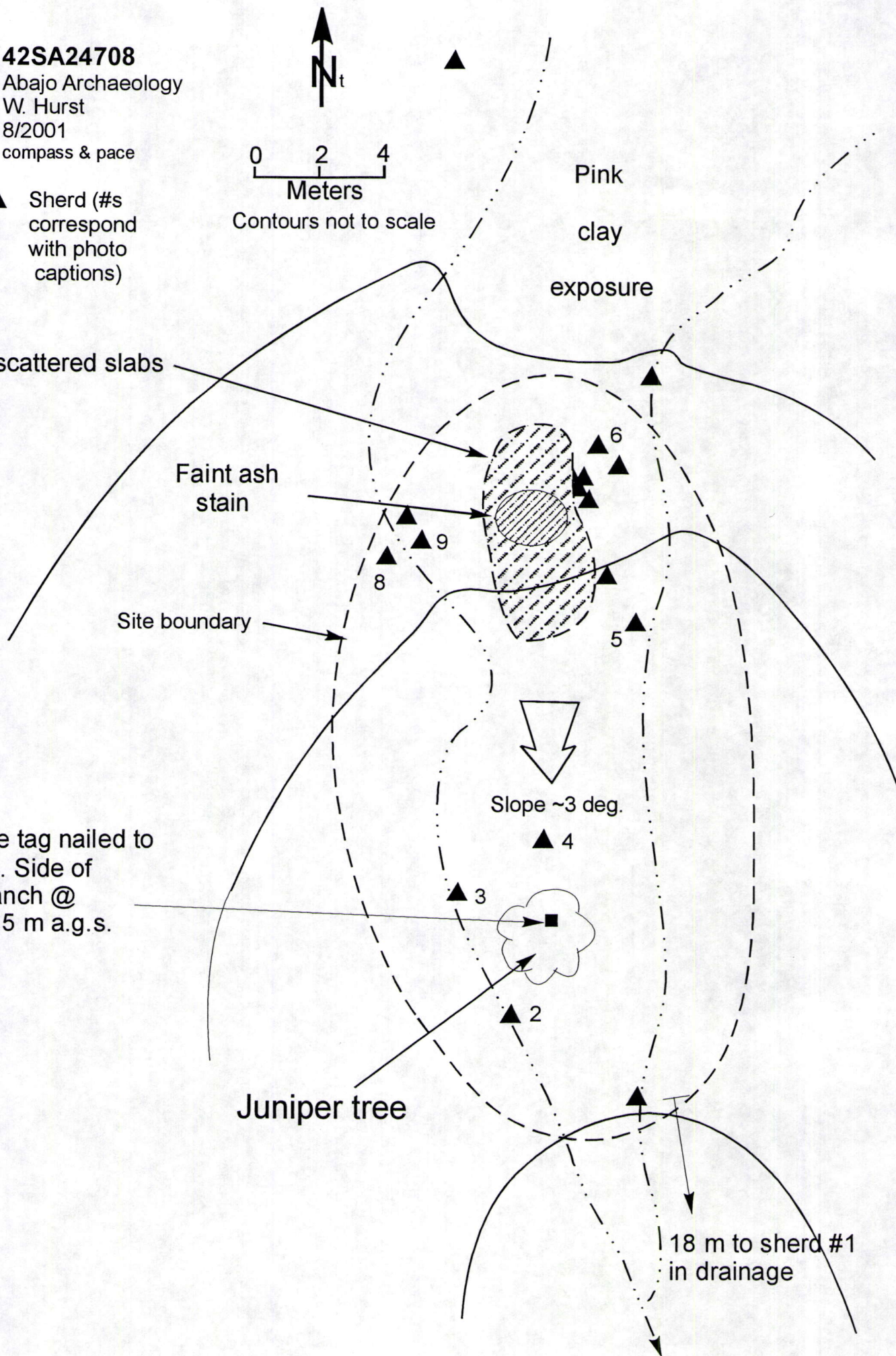
Site boundary

Site tag nailed to  
s.e. Side of  
branch @  
~1.5 m a.g.s.

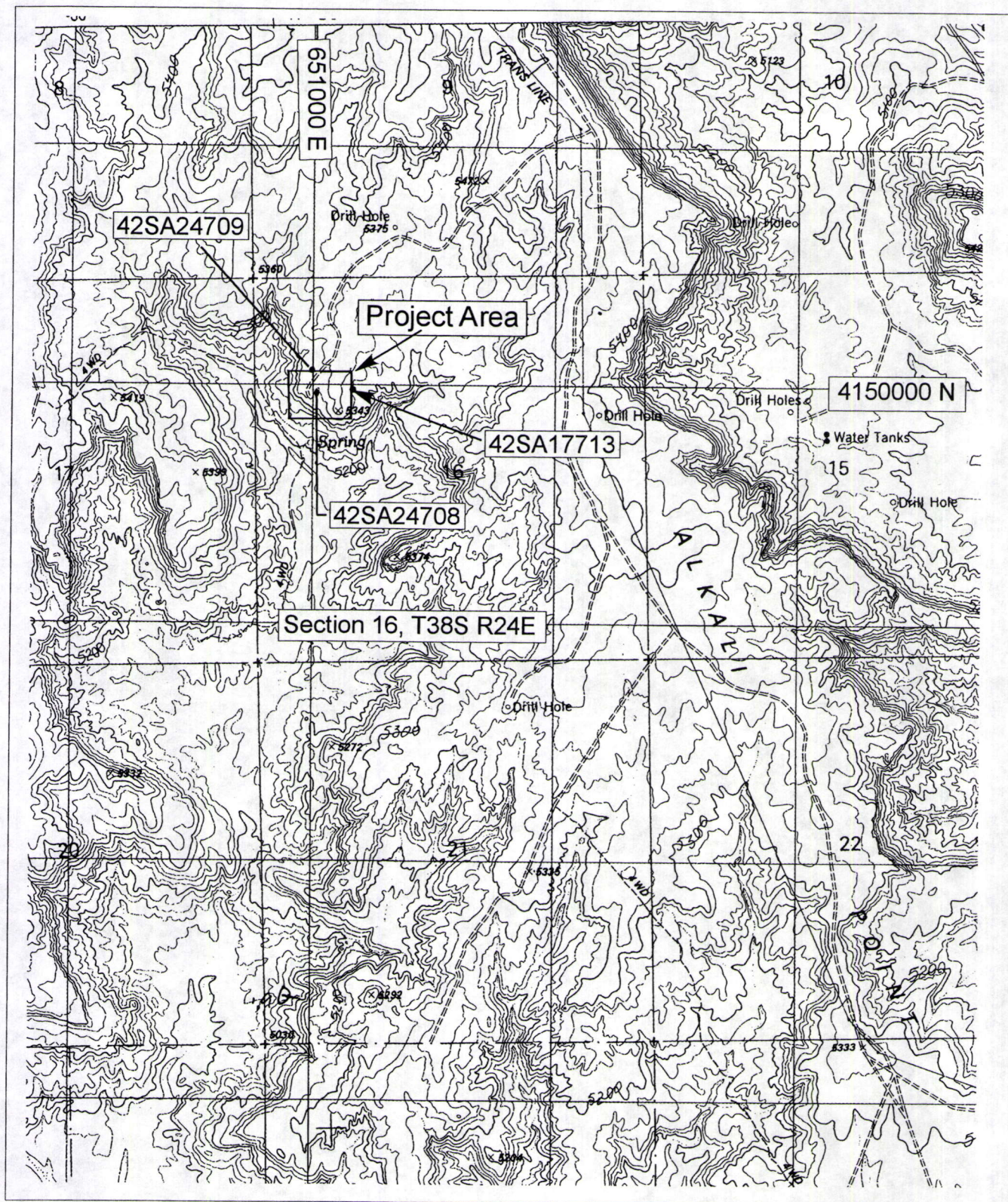
Slope ~3 deg.

Juniper tree

18 m to sherd #1  
in drainage

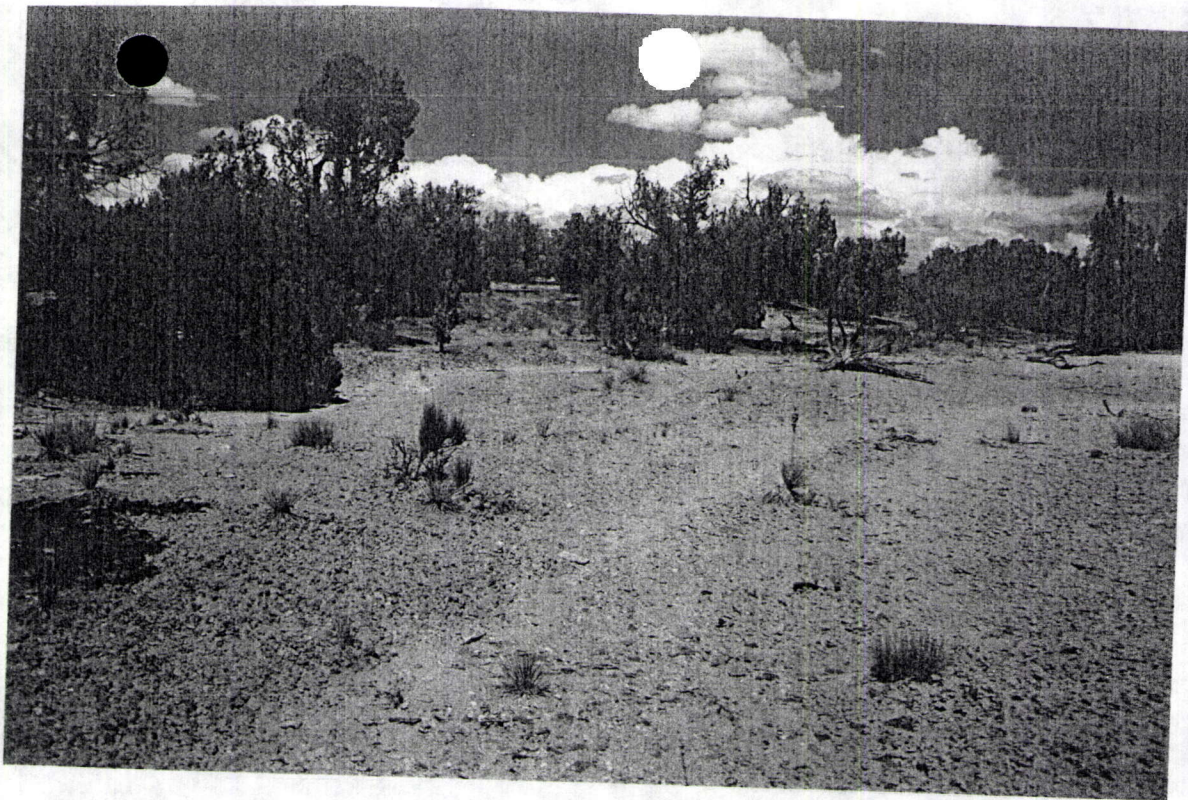






(USGS McCracken Spring, Utah 7.5' quadrangle)



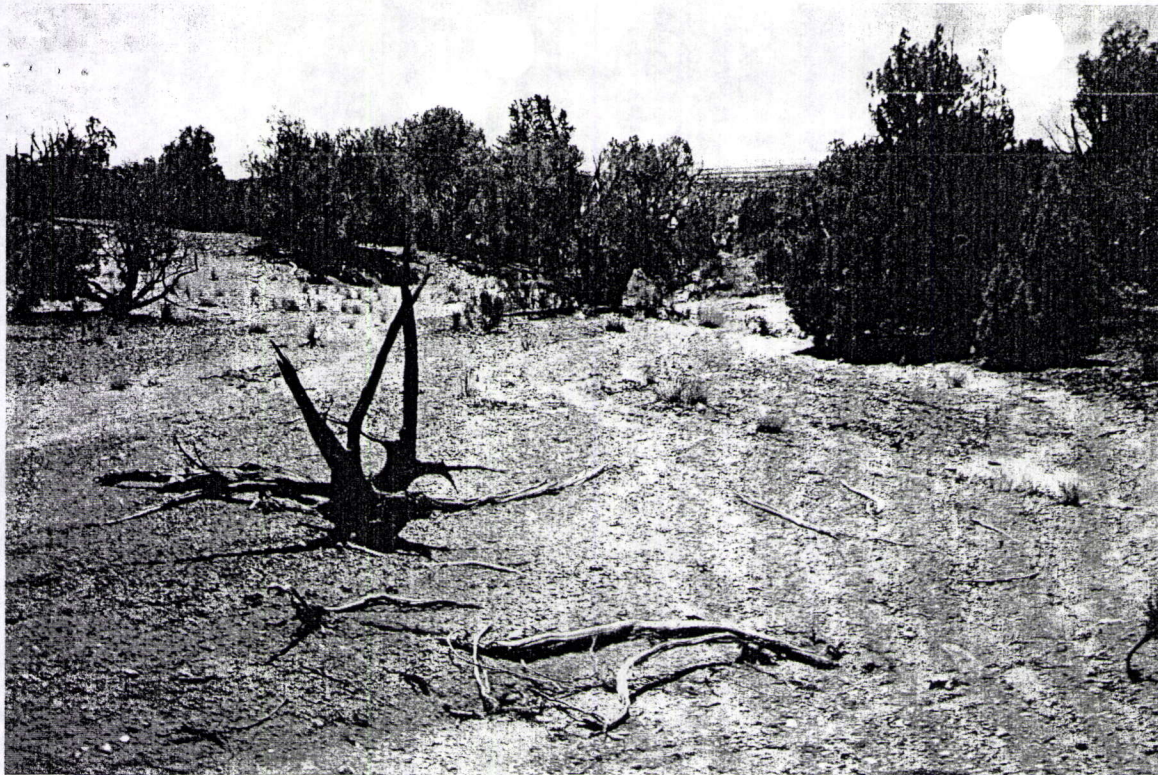


42SA24708 (Hurst 8/2001) p. 1 of 2

- Upper: General view ~northwest. Orange pin flags mark locations of sherds. Note clay exposure beyond site at upper right and area of faintly ashy sediment at approximate center. (Photo 1/10)
- Lower: General view looking ~southwest from pink clay. (Photo1/11)







42SA24708 (Hurst 8/2001) p. 2 of 2

Upper: General view looking ~south, pink clay exposure to left. (Photo 1 /12)

Lower: Selected potsherds. Top left, McElmo B/w cf. Sosi style bowl, carbon paint (#10 on map); top right, McElmo B/w mineral paint bowl (#1); Middle row left, Mesa Verde White Ware ladle handle (#3); middle right, two McElmo B/w carbon paint bowl sherds (#s 5, 4); lower left, Mesa Verde B/w bowl sherds (#s 3, 6 conjoining); lower right, indented corrugated body sherds. (Photo 2/2)





IMACS SITE FORM**PART A - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**

1. **STATE NO.:** 42SA24709
2. **AGENCY NO.:**
3. **TEMP NO.:**
4. **STATE:** Utah **COUNTY:** San Juan
5. **PROJECT:** Sean Murphy Alkali Point rock quarry survey (SITLA materials lease ML48768)
6. **REPORT NO.:** U01-AS0487s
7. **SITE NAME/PROPERTY NAME:**
8. **CLASS:** ☒ **PREHISTORIC** ☐ **HISTORIC** ☐ **PALEONTOLOGIC**  
☐ **ETHNOGRAPHIC**
9. **SITE TYPE:** kiln
10. **ELEVATION:** 5330 ft
11. **UTM GRID:** Zone 12 651000 m E 4150077 m N
12. **[NE] 1/4 OF [SW] 1/4 OF [NW] 1/4 OF SECTION [ 16 ] T. [ 38 ] S. R. [ 24 ] E.**
13. **MERIDIAN:** Salt Lake
14. **MAP REFERENCE:** McCracken Springs, Utah (7.5' prov. 1989)
15. **AERIAL PHOTO:**
16. **LOCATION AND ACCESS:** Thirteen miles southeast of Blanding on Alkali Point. Follow San Juan County southeast from Blanding across Mustang Mesa and Alkali Wash onto Alkali Point, continue east appr. 2.5 miles, turn right (southeast) onto bladed county road, proceed 1.5 miles to point where road intersects powerline at turn in powerline. Turn right, follow dirt road for appr. 1.2 miles, to a point ca. 70 m/220 ft past a southwestward bend in road. The site is about 30 m west of the road, adjacent to the south side of a small drainage.
17. **LAND OWNER:** State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
18. **FEDERAL ADMIN. UNITS:**
19. **LOCATION OF CURATED MATERIALS:** none
20. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** This site is a small, subrectangular ash stain and slab scatter, partly outlined with upright or semi-upright sandstone slabs. It is identical to trench kilns that have been documented in Colorado (e.g. Fuller 1984) and west of Comb Ridge (e.g. Helm 1973). This feature appears to have measured approximately 2 m long by 1-1.3 m wide, its long dimension oriented east-west. It occupies a gentle north-facing slope, adjacent to a small, westward-trending drainage channel. Several slabs remain upright or semi-upright, leaning outward from the center of the feature, on the south (upslope) side. No artifacts of any kind were observed on the feature or in the near vicinity. A finger probe revealed dark, charcoal-rich sediments extending to a depth of at least 20 cm, indicating that there are intact buried deposits.
21. **SITE CONDITION:** ☐ **EXCELLENT (A)** ☐ **GOOD (B)** ☒ **FAIR (C)**  
☐ **POOR (D)**
22. **IMPACT AGENT(S):** natural erosion
23. **NAT. REGISTER STATUS:** ☒ **SIGNIFICANT (C)** ☐ **NON-SIGNIFICANT (D)** ☐  
**UNEVALUATED (Z)**

**JUSTIFY:** Though small and unimpressive, 42SA24709 is deemed significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D. There is a high likelihood that excavation would yield information sufficient to determine the feature's age and function. If it is a kiln, it has the potential to contribute to our understanding of ceramic production technology in this part of the Northern San Juan region. If it is not a kiln, it has the



potential to broaden our understanding of the variability through time and across space in the various functions served by these kinds of features.

24. **PHOTOS:** 1/18-1/22  
 25. **RECORDED BY:** Winston Hurst  
 26. **SURVEY ORGANIZATION:** Abajo Archaeology  
 27. **ASSISTING CREW MEMBERS:** None  
 28. **SURVEY DATE:** 8/2/2001  
**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:** ☒ PART B ☐ PART C ☐ PART E  
☒ TOPO MAP ☐ ARTIFACT/FEATURE SKETCH ☒ SITE SKETCH  
☐ CONTINUATION SHEETS ☒ PHOTOS ☐ OTHER:
- 

### PART A - ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

29. **SLOPE:** [ 5 ] (DEGREES) **ASPECT** [ 270 ] (DEGREES)  
 30. **DISTANCE TO PERMANENT WATER:** [ 3 ] X 100 Meters  
**TYPE OF WATER SOURCE:** [ x ] SPRING/SEEP (A) ☐ STREAM/RIVER (B) ☐  
 LAKE (C) ☐ OTHER (D)  
**NAME OF WATER SOURCE:** Unnamed small spring 300 m south-southeast  
 31. **GEOGRAPHIC UNIT:** Blanding Basin  
 32. **TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION**  
**PRIMARY LANDFORM:** Tableland/mesa (C)  
**SECONDARY LANDFORM:** Ephemeral wash (4)  
**DESCRIBE:** Adjacent to a small, westward-trending, ephemeral stream ca. 20-30 m from the rim of a side canyon of Alkali Wash.  
 33. **ON-SITE DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT:** Residual (U)  
**DESCRIPTION OF SOIL:** residual sandy loam with numerous sandstone and pebble inclusions, pebbles from deteriorated conglomerate  
 34. **VEGETATION**  
**A. LIFE ZONE:** Upper Sonoran (E)  
**B. COMMUNITY - PRIMARY ON-SITE:** barren (R)  
**SECONDARY ON-SITE:** Pinyon-juniper woodland (H)  
**SURROUNDING SITE:** Pinyon-juniper  
**DESCRIBE:** General area is covered by climax pinyon-juniper forest with little understory. Vegetation is sparse immediately on the site, consisting of low-growing, unidentified plants. Adjacent to the site are juniper, pinyon, Mormon tea, snakeweed, cliffrose, narrow-leaf yucca.  
 35. **MISCELLANEOUS TEXT:**  
 36. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**



## PART B - PREHISTORIC SITES

1. **SITE TYPE:** Kiln
2. **CULTURE - CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** Anasazi Pueblo III?  
**DATING METHOD:** architectural cross-dating (L)  
**DESCRIBE:** This style of trench kiln commonly dates to the Pueblo III period
3. **SITE DIMENSIONS:** [ 6 ] M by [ 6 ] M AREA = [ 20 ] SQ M
4. **SURFACE COLLECTION/METHOD:** None
5. **ESTIMATED DEPTH OF CULTURAL FILL:** 20+ cm  
**HOW ESTIMATED (IF TESTED, SHOW LOCATION ON SITE MAP):** finger probe into ash stain
6. **EXCAVATION STATUS:** [ ] EXCAVATED (A) [ ] TESTED (B)  
[ X ] UNEXCAVATED (C)  
**TESTING METHOD:**
7. **SUMMARY OF ARTIFACTS AND DEBRIS:**  
1 burned slab scatter (BS)  
**DESCRIBE:** sparse scatter of very small slabs (up to ca. 2 cm thick & 15 cm long), some burned, in an area approximately 4 m long by 2 m wide.
8. **LITHIC TOOLS:** None observed
9. **LITHIC DEBITAGE - ESTIMATED QUANTITY:** (A=none, B=1-9, C=10-25, D=25-100, E=100-500, F=500+, Z=unk.) None observed  
**MATERIAL TYPE:**  
**FLAKING STAGES:** (0) NOT PRESENT (1) RARE (2) COMMON (3) DOMINANT  
[ 0 ] DECORTICATION [ 0 ] SECONDARY [ 0 ] TERTIARY [ 0 ] SHATTER  
[ 0 ] CORE
10. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (ALL LITHICS):** 0
11. **CERAMIC ARTIFACTS:**  
# TYPE  
none observed  
**DESCRIBE:**
12. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (CERAMICS):** 0
13. **NON-ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):**  
**DESCRIBE:**  
1 kiln (code? HE?)
14. **ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):** None  
# MATERIAL TYPE  
**DESCRIBE:**
15. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**



• WINSTON HURST

A



Site tag on  
steel rebar  
stake

Slope  
~4-5 deg.

Abandoned seismic(?) Road

**42SA24709**

Abajo Archaeology

W. Hurst

8/2001

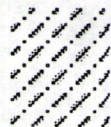
compass & tape

0 1 2

Meters

Contours not to scale

← N<sub>t</sub> →

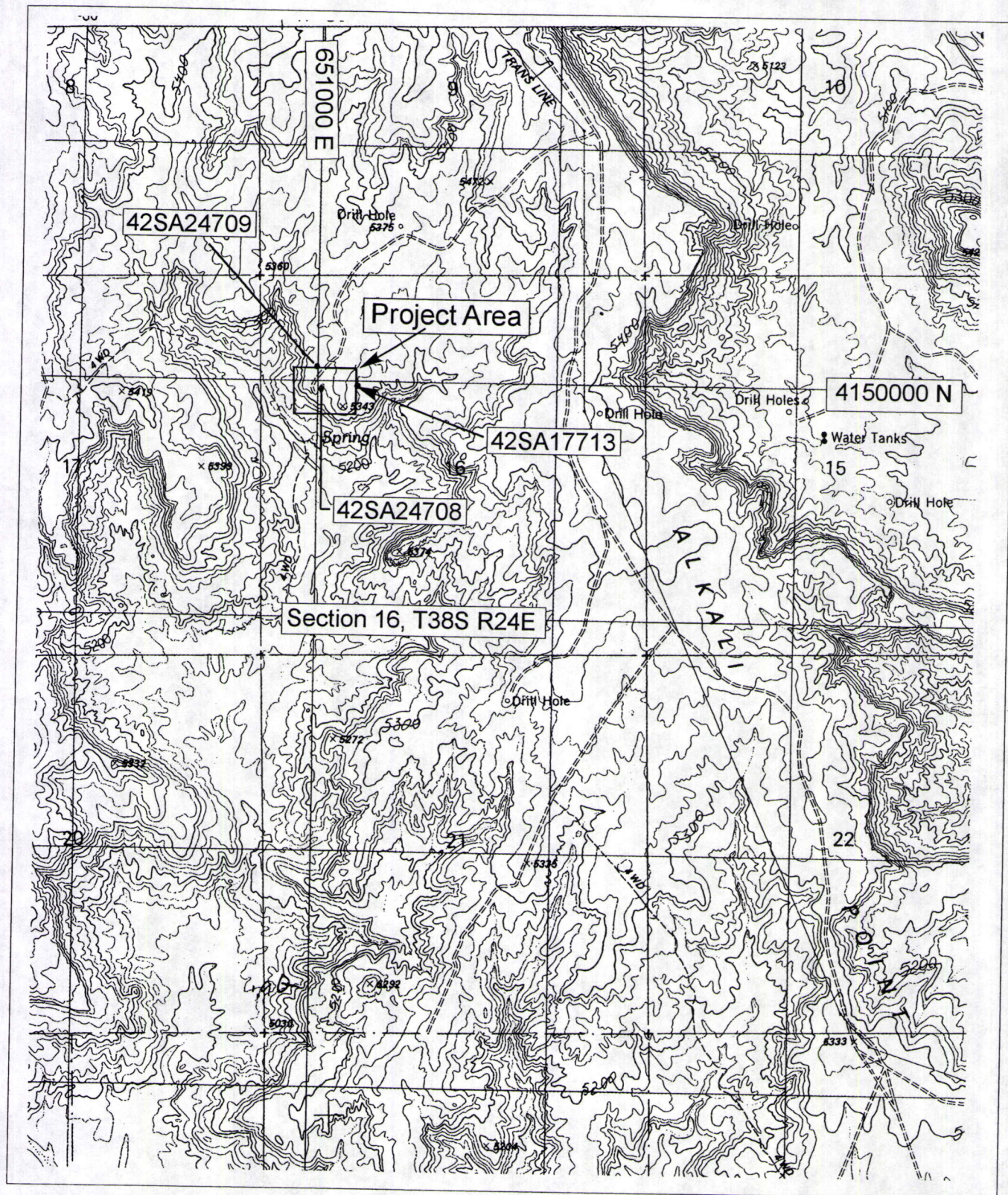


Ash stain



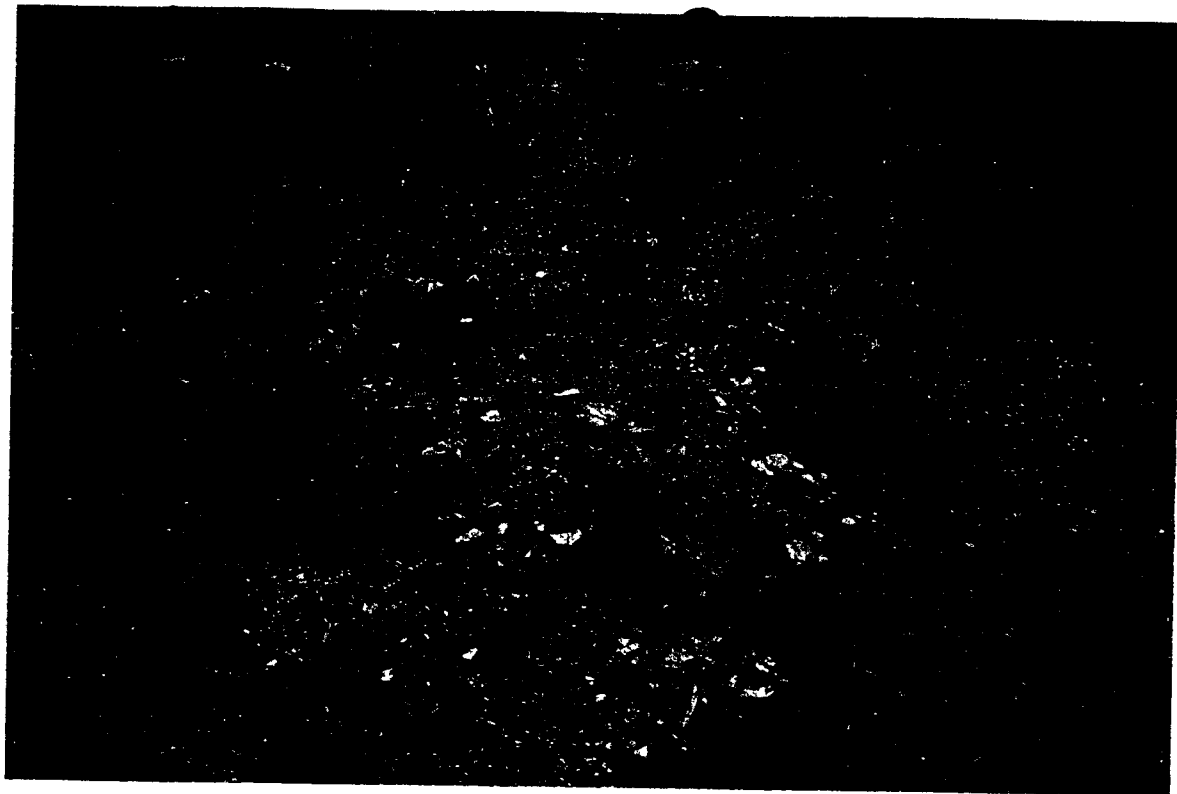
Upright or semi-  
upright slabs





(USGS McCracken Spring, Utah 7.5' quadrangle)

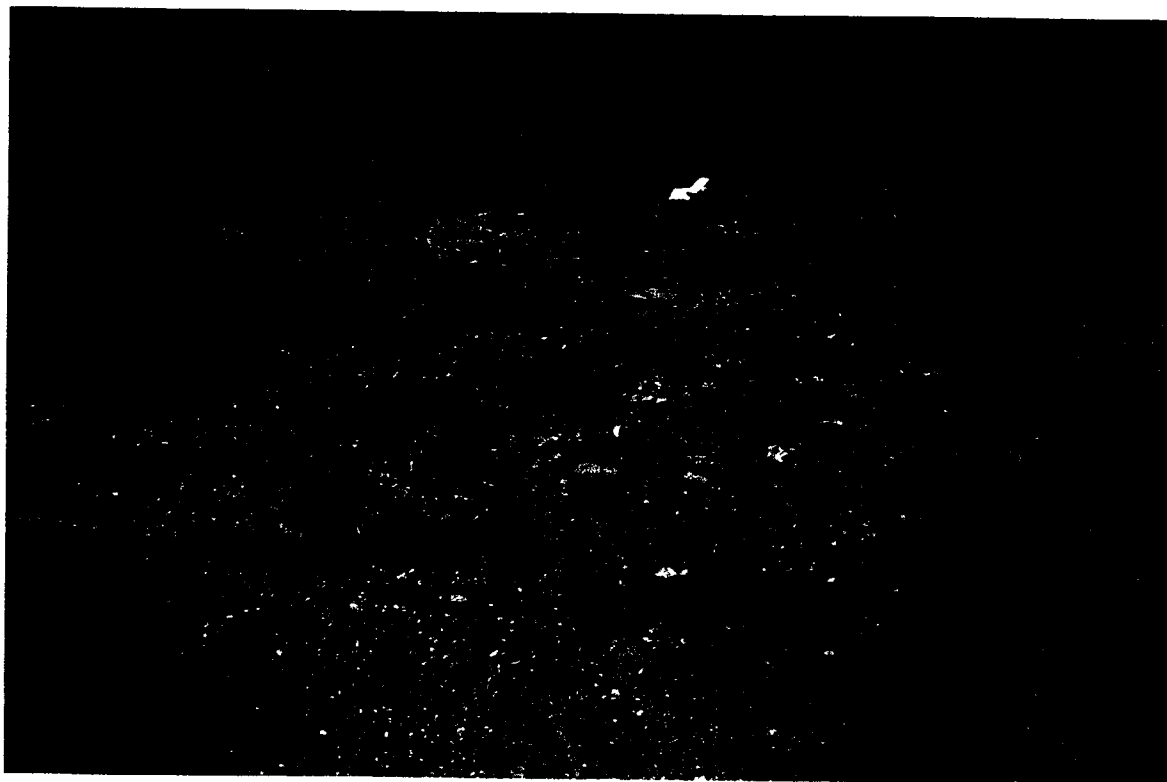




**42SA24709** (Hurst 8/2001) p. 1 of 2

Upper: looking southeast, kiln remains at center.(photo 1/18)

Lower: looking ~west, hat in feature, clipboard in seismic road. (Photo 1/20)







42SA24709 (Hurst 8/2001) p. 2 of 2  
looking east, close view, hat in center of kiln feature.



IMACS SITE FORM

## PART A - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

1. **STATE NO.:** 42SA17713
2. **AGENCY NO.:**
3. **TEMP NO.:**
4. **STATE:** Utah **COUNTY:** San Juan
5. **PROJECT:** Sean Murphy Alkali Point rock quarry survey (SITLA materials lease ML48768)
6. **REPORT NO.:** U01-AS0487s
7. **SITE NAME/PROPERTY NAME:**
8. **CLASS:** ☒ PREHISTORIC ☐ HISTORIC ☐ PALEONTOLOGIC  
☐ ETHNOGRAPHIC
9. **SITE TYPE:** kiln? Burned rock and ash mound
10. **ELEVATION:** 5320 ft.
11. **UTM GRID:** Zone 12 651160 m E 4149975 m N
12. **[ NE ] 1/4 OF [ SW ] 1/4 OF [ NW ] 1/4 OF SECTION [ 16 ] T. [ 38 ] S. R. [ 24 ] E.**
13. **MERIDIAN:** Salt Lake
14. **MAP REFERENCE:** McCracken Springs, Utah (7.5' prov. 1989)
15. **AERIAL PHOTO:**
16. **LOCATION AND ACCESS:** Thirteen miles southeast of Blanding on Alkali Point. Follow San Juan County southeast from Blanding across Mustang Mesa and Alkali Wash onto Alkali Point, continue east appr. 2.5 miles, turn right (southeast) onto bladed county road, proceed 1.5 miles to point where road intersects powerline at turn in powerline. Turn right, follow dirt road for appr. 1.3 miles to end of road, in rock quarry area on canyon rim. Walk east-northeast 180 m, across small ridge and down east slope, into site.
17. **LAND OWNER:** State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
18. **FEDERAL ADMIN. UNITS:**
19. **LOCATION OF CURATED MATERIALS:** none
20. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Site 42SA17713 is a discrete, ca. 15 m diameter, slightly mounded, dense concentration of hundreds of sandstone slabs and 60+ potsherds in a matrix of ashy sediment. Many of the slabs are oxidized from heat. There are no evident patterns in the slab distribution to indicate architectural remains. The ceramics are all white ware, representing at least 5 different bowls, one ladle and one jar. Ceramic types include Mancos Black-on-white in the Dogoszhi and *cf.* Black Mesa decorative styles (Colton 1953:47-49; Lucius and Breternitz 1992:22-25), Mesa Verde Black-on-white, undifferentiated intermediate white ware (San Juan White Ware *sensu* Abel 1954) and undifferentiated late white ware (Mesa Verde White Ware *sensu* Abel 1954). Two sherds from a McElmo Black-on-white bowl were found near the site, at about 15 m to the north and south of the rock concentration. No other artifacts of any kind were observed on or in the vicinity of the site. Both the Mancos Black-on-white and the later McElmo and Mesa Verde sherds are classic and comfortable specimens of their respective types, with no transitional properties except for some painted dots on the tapered rim of a Mancos bowl. This can be interpreted to represent a single use episode around A.D. 1200 (middle Pueblo III, end of Mancos production, early years of classic Mesa Verde Black-on-white production) or (more likely, in my opinion) two use episodes during the A.D. 1000s-early 1100s (late Pueblo II period) and the A.D. 1200s (mid-late Pueblo III period). Except for natural erosion and weathering processes, this site appears to be in relatively good condition. If it has been shuffled by looters, the digging was not done recently, and it was done in a manner that left the site gently and uniformly mounded. Based on the morphology of the mounded sediments, the maximum depth of cultural deposits is estimated at



about 30 cm, though intrusive pit features may extend deeper than that..

The function of this site is unclear. An absence of either burned daub or patterning in the burned slabs suggests something other than a habitation structure. Hibbetts suggested that it may have been some kind of anomalous ceramic firing kiln, though his observation that the associated ceramics were "all heavily burned" was erroneous (while well fired, none exhibited evidence of extreme overfiring or atmospheric misfiring). Its location in gently sloping woodland adjacent to a small drainage is a typical setting for a trench kiln, however, and Hibbetts may be right, though the size of the burned slab scatter bespeaks firing on an unusually large scale or an unusually repetitive usage, and no kiln structure is visible in the rubble. Since well-developed, slab-lined trench kilns commonly date to the Pueblo III period, it is possible that this more-amorphous feature represents an earlier style of ceramic kiln or kiln complex associated with the Pueblo II ceramic assemblage on the site.

21. **SITE CONDITION:** ☐ EXCELLENT (A) ☒ GOOD (B) ☐ FAIR (C)  
☐ POOR (D)
22. **IMPACT AGENT(S):** natural erosion, likely surface collecting
23. **NAT. REGISTER STATUS:** ☒ SIGNIFICANT (C) ☐ NON-SIGNIFICANT (D) ☐  
☐ UNEVALUATED (Z)
- JUSTIFY:** Eligible for NR under criteria C ("... embody[s] the distinctive characteristics of a type, period [etc.]. . .") and D (is "likely to yield information important in prehistory or history."). If this is a kiln site, it is a type of kiln that has not been studied, and likely dates in part to a time period for which identified pottery firing kilns are rare and poorly studied. If it is not a kiln, it is a class of site about which we have virtually no information.
24. **PHOTOS:** 1/13-17
25. **RECORDED BY:** Winston Hurst
26. **SURVEY ORGANIZATION:** Abajo Archaeology
27. **ASSISTING CREW MEMBERS:** None
28. **SURVEY DATE:** 8/2/2001
- LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:** ☒ PART B ☐ PART C ☐ PART E  
☒ TOPO MAP ☐ ARTIFACT/FEATURE SKETCH ☒ SITE SKETCH  
☐ CONTINUATION SHEETS ☒ PHOTOS ☐ OTHER:

#### PART A - ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

29. **SLOPE:** ☐ 6 (DEGREES) **ASPECT** ☐ 90 (DEGREES)
30. **DISTANCE TO PERMANENT WATER:** ☐ 3 X 100 Meters
- TYPE OF WATER SOURCE:** ☒ SPRING/SEEP (A) ☐ STREAM/RIVER (B) ☐  
☐ LAKE (C) ☐ OTHER (D)
- NAME OF WATER SOURCE:** Unnamed small spring 280 m southwest
31. **GEOGRAPHIC UNIT:** Blanding Basin
32. **TOPOGRAPHIC LOCATION**
- PRIMARY LANDFORM:** Ridge (D)
- SECONDARY LANDFORM:** Slope (Q)
- DESCRIBE:** On gentle east slope at foot of small ridge in mesa interior, near canyon rims
33. **ON-SITE DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT:** Residual (U)
- DESCRIPTION OF SOIL:** sandy loam with numerous sandstone and pebble conglomerate inclusions.
34. **VEGETATION**



**A. LIFE ZONE:** Upper Sonoran (E)

**B. COMMUNITY - PRIMARY ON-SITE:** Pinyon-juniper woodland (H)

**SECONDARY ON-SITE:** barren (R)

**SURROUNDING SITE:** Pinyon-juniper

**DESCRIBE:** Area is covered by climax pinyon-juniper forest with little understory. Vegetation is largely absent on the rock mound, with juniper trees adjacent to it. Other plants in the immediate vicinity include stunted cliffrose, prickly pear and narrow-leaf yucca.

35. **MISCELLANEOUS TEXT:**

36. **COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:** This site was originally recorded by Barry Hibbetts of La Plata Archaeological Consultants in 1986, in connection with the cultural clearance of a seismic exploration line. Even though Hibbetts's site tag could not be located and I differ somewhat in my assessment of the artifact assemblage and site location, nearby evidence of seismic activity and scattered bits of blue flagging around the site perimeter attest to the fact that the site was previously recorded during a seismic project. More importantly, I was able to duplicate Hibbetts's single photograph, looking northeast across the rock/ash concentration to some distinctive background features.

## PART B - PREHISTORIC SITES

1. **SITE TYPE:** kiln? Burned rock and ash mound.
2. **CULTURE - CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** late Pueblo II, Pueblo III  
**DATING METHOD:** ceramic cross-dating (M)  
**DESCRIBE:** assemblage contains Mancos Black-on-white and Mesa Verde Black-on-white,
3. **SITE DIMENSIONS:** [ 16 ] M by [ 16 ] M **AREA = [ 250 ] SQ M**
4. **SURFACE COLLECTION/METHOD:** None
5. **ESTIMATED DEPTH OF CULTURAL FILL:** 30+ cm  
**HOW ESTIMATED (IF TESTED, SHOW LOCATION ON SITE MAP):** based on evident height of rock and ash mound above surface.
6. **EXCAVATION STATUS:** [ ] EXCAVATED (A) [ ] TESTED (B)  
[ X ] UNEXCAVATED (C)  
**TESTING METHOD:**
7. **SUMMARY OF ARTIFACTS AND DEBRIS:**  
1 ceramic scatter (CS)  
1 burned rock scatter (BS)  
**DESCRIBE:** Dense concentration of hundreds of small sandstone slabs (~1-5 cm thick, up to 25 cm long) in a low mound, with a matrix of ashy sediment. Many of the slabs are smudged or oxidized from heat.
8. **LITHIC TOOLS:** None observed
9. **LITHIC DEBITAGE - ESTIMATED QUANTITY:** (A=none, B=1-9, C=10-25, D=25-100, E=100-500, F=500+, Z=unk.) None  
**MATERIAL TYPE:**  
**FLAKING STAGES:** (0) NOT PRESENT (1) RARE (2) COMMON (3) DOMINANT  
[ 0 ] DECORTICATION [ 0 ] SECONDARY [ 0 ] TERTIARY [ 0 ] SHATTER  
[ 0 ] CORE
10. **MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (ALL LITHICS):** 0



**11. CERAMIC ARTIFACTS:**

- | #  | TYPE  |
|----|---|
| 15 | Mancos Black-on-white Dogoszhi style (all from one bowl)                                  |
| 8  | Mancos Black-on-white checkerboard style (one bowl)                                       |
| 8  | Mancos Black-n-white cf. Black Mesa style (mostly one bowl)                               |
| 10 | unidentified San Juan White Ware (Abel) bowl  |
| 1  | unidentified San Juan White Ware (Abel) jar   |
| 2  | Mesa Verde Black-on-white bowl  |
| 2  | McElmo Black-on-white bowl (carbon paint; same bowl, located ~15 m north & south of site) |
| 5  | Mesa Verde White Ware bowl  |
| 1  | Mesa Verde White Ware ladle handle  |

**DESCRIBE:** Ceramics are typical of their respective types. Mancos has some rim ticking but is otherwise typical late PII; PIII types are well developed, look to date from 1200s.

**12. MAXIMUM DENSITY--#/SQ M (CERAMICS): 10****13. NON-ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP):**

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | burned rock concentration (FC) |
| 1 | ash stain                      |

**DESCRIBE:** Low mound of densely concentrated burned slabs in matrix of ashy soil

**14. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (LOCATE ON SITE MAP): None**

#	MATERIAL	TYPE
---	----------	------

**DESCRIBE:** None evident

**15. COMMENTS/CONTINUATIONS:**



B



Slab & ash  
concentration

Site Tag on  
rebar stake



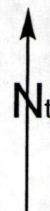
Slope ~ 6 deg

Tree duff mounds

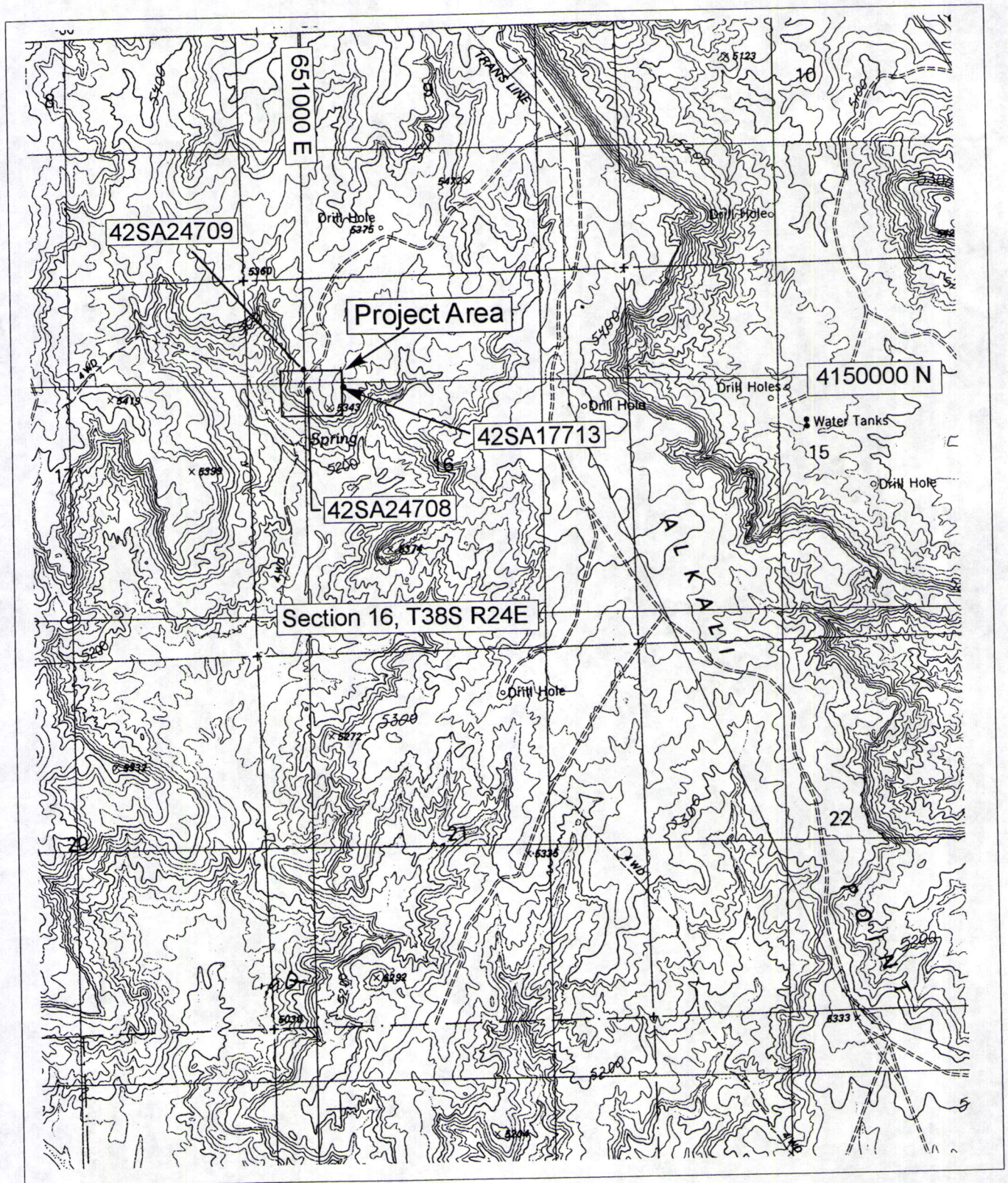
42SA17713  
Hurst 8/2001  
Abajo Archaeology  
Hand-held compass & tape

0 2 4  
Meters

Contours ~25 cm, not to accurate scale

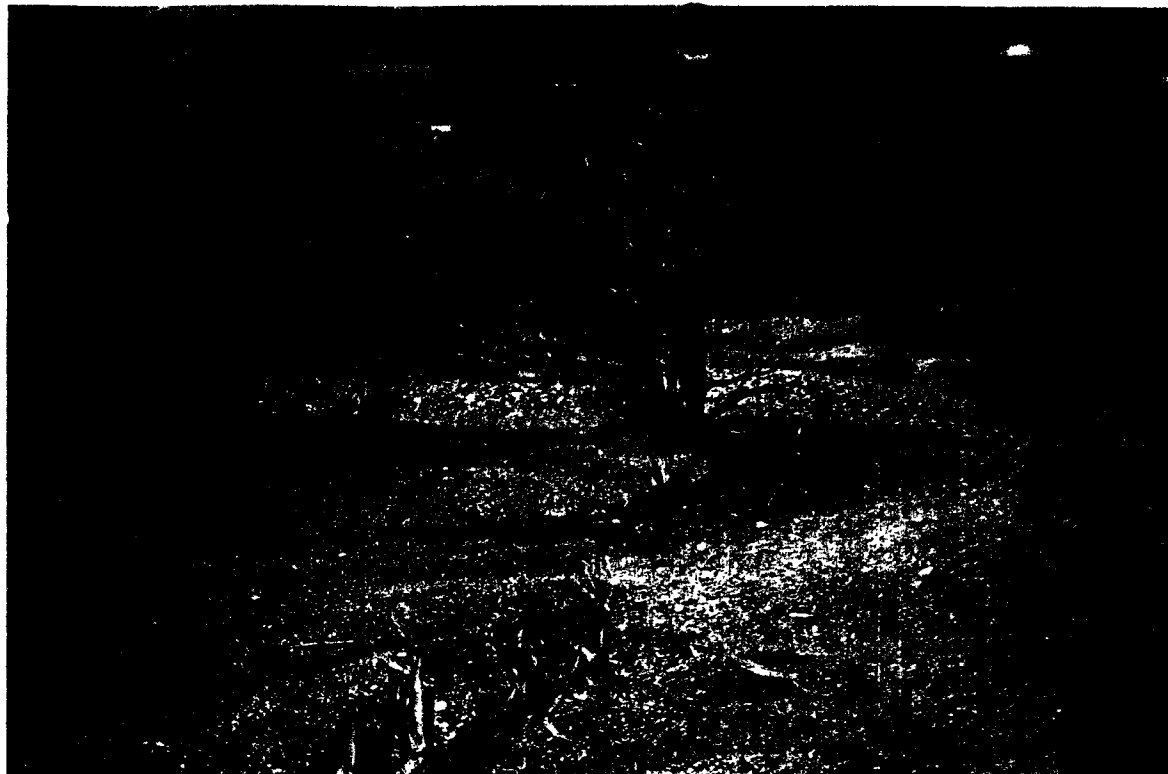






(USGS McCracken Spring, Utah 7.5' quadrangle)





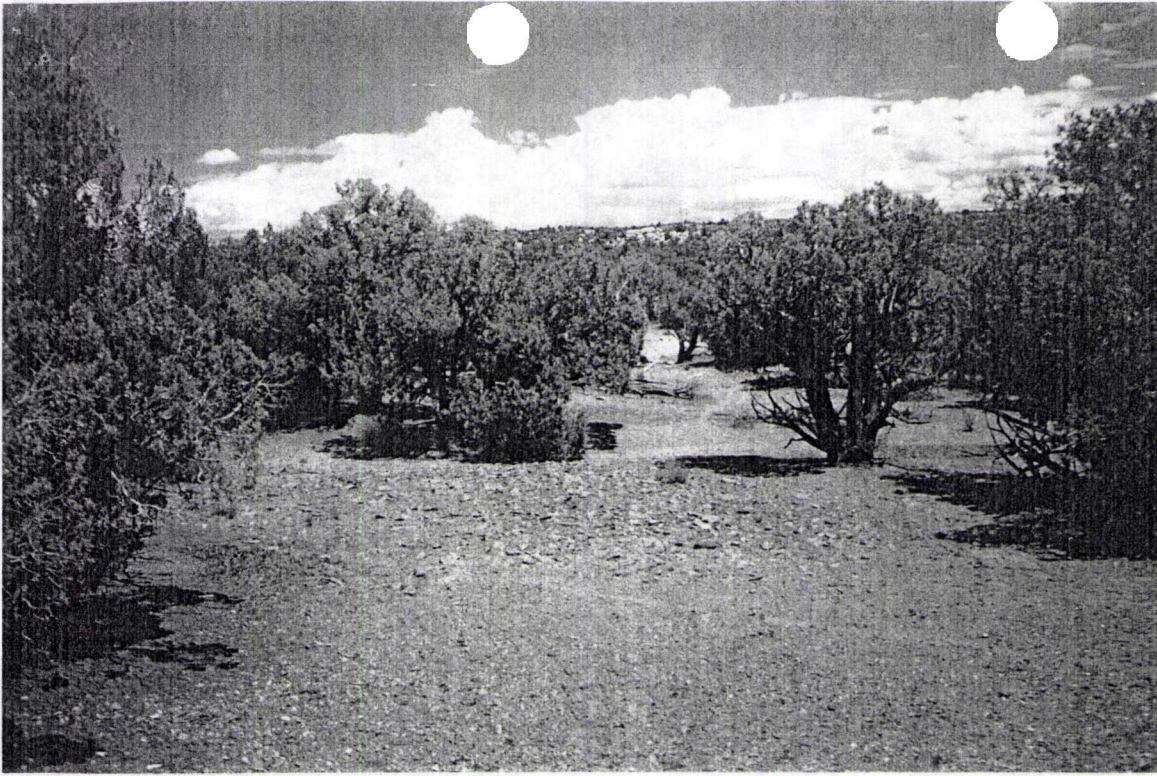
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Upper: Overview looking ~north-northwest. The site is visible as a dark rocky area at center, contrasting with redder surrounding sediments.(photo #1/13)

Lower: Overview looking 42SA17713 looking south-southeast. (Photo #1/17)







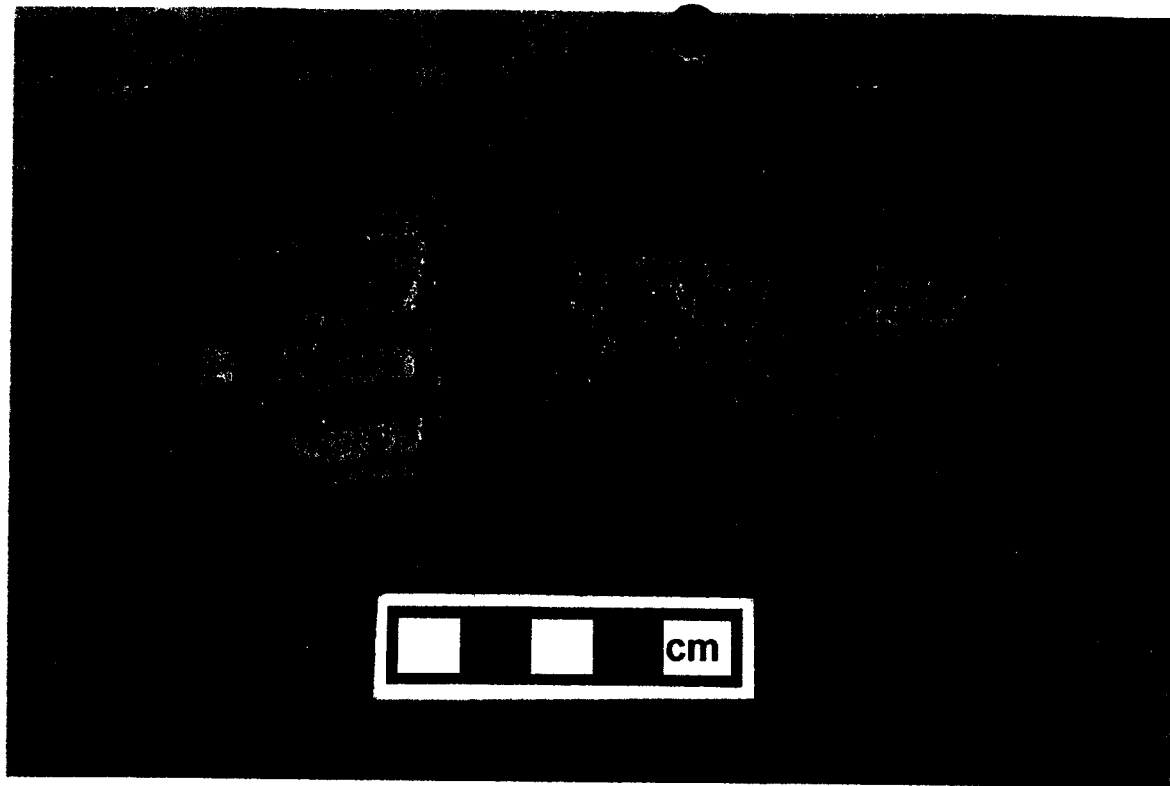
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Upper: Overview looking northwest, retake of Hibbetts's 1986 photograph. (Photo #1/16)

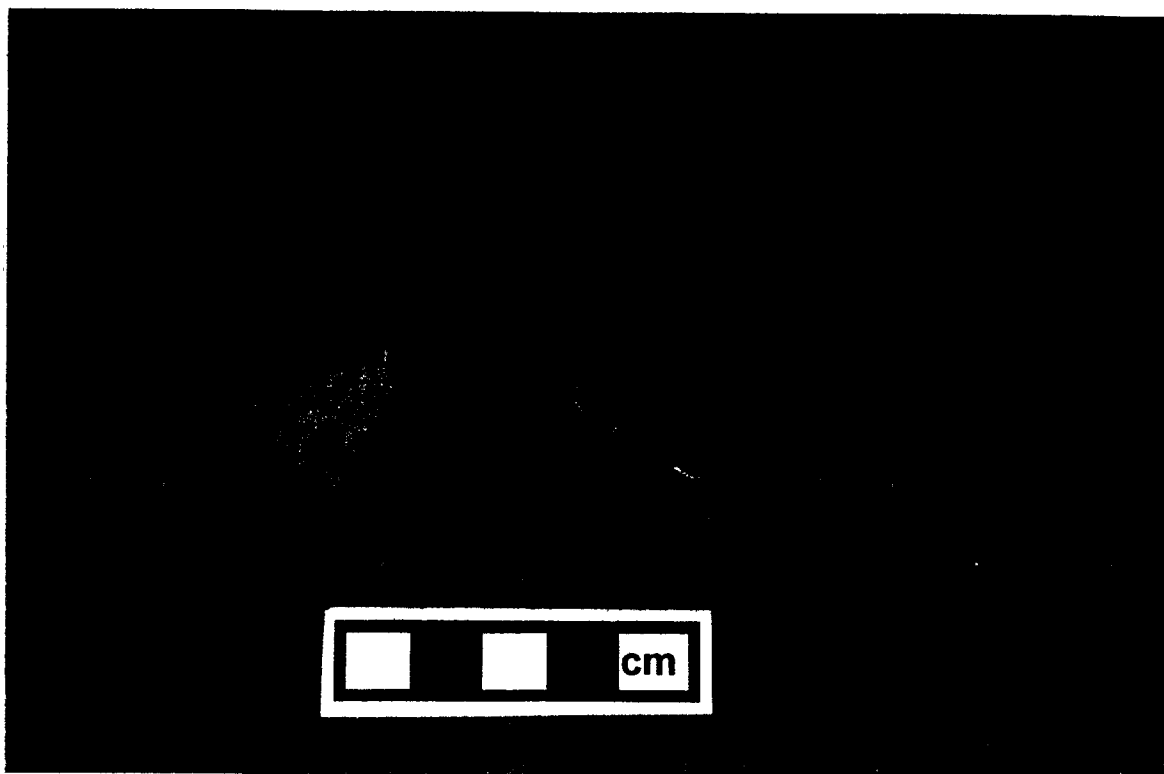
Lower: Closer detail looking ~west-northwest at center of site, showing nature and density of rock scatter with hat & clipboard for scale. (Photo #1/15)



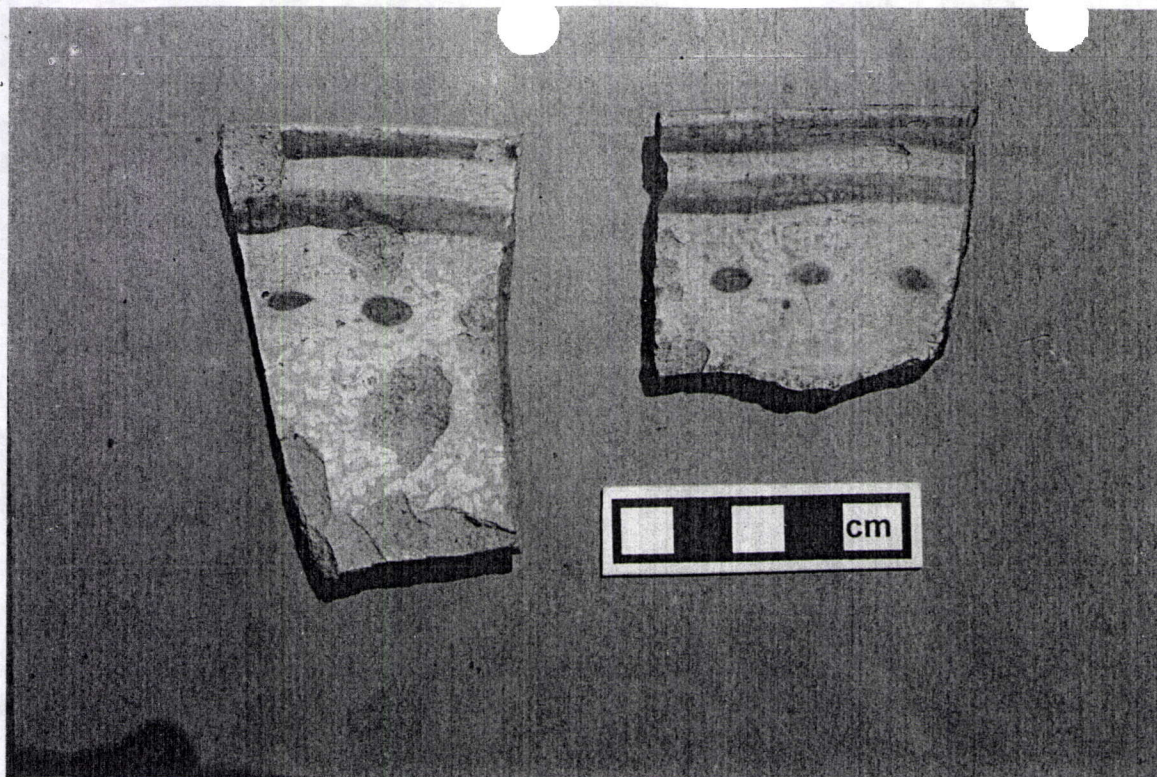




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Mesa Verde B/w bowls, rims up.  
Upper: interior  
Lower: exterior  
(Photo #s 2/4, 2/6)



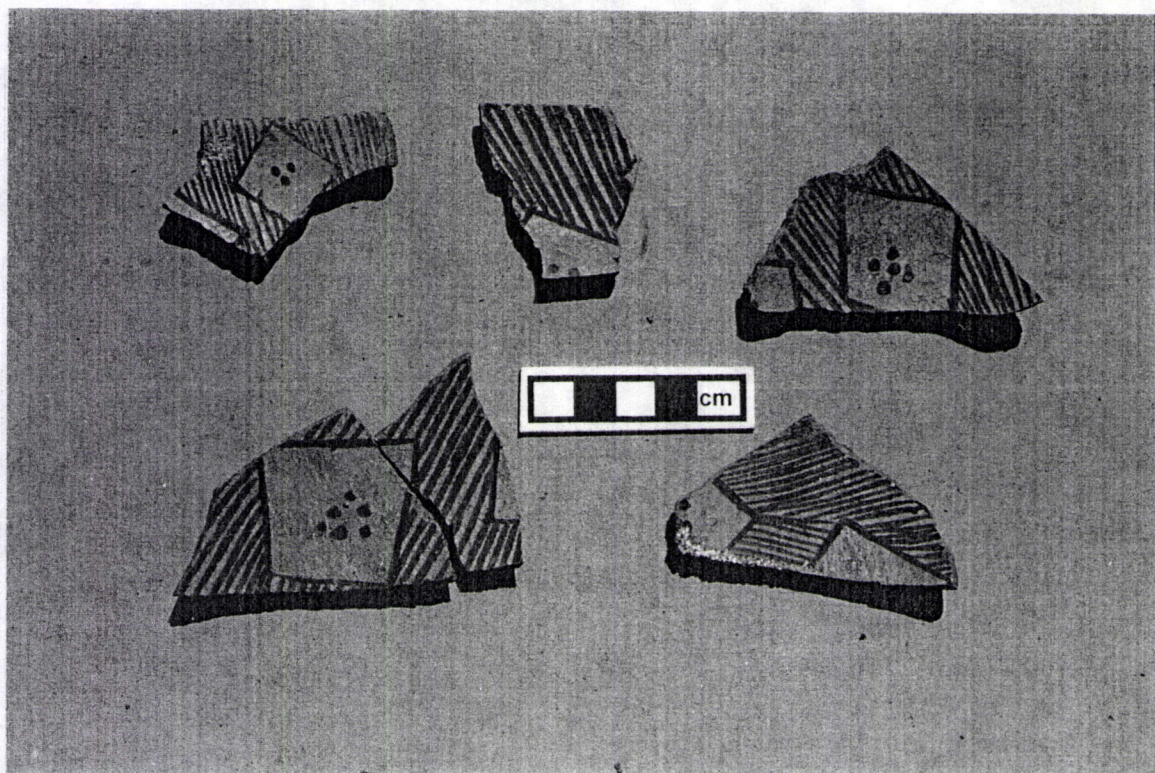




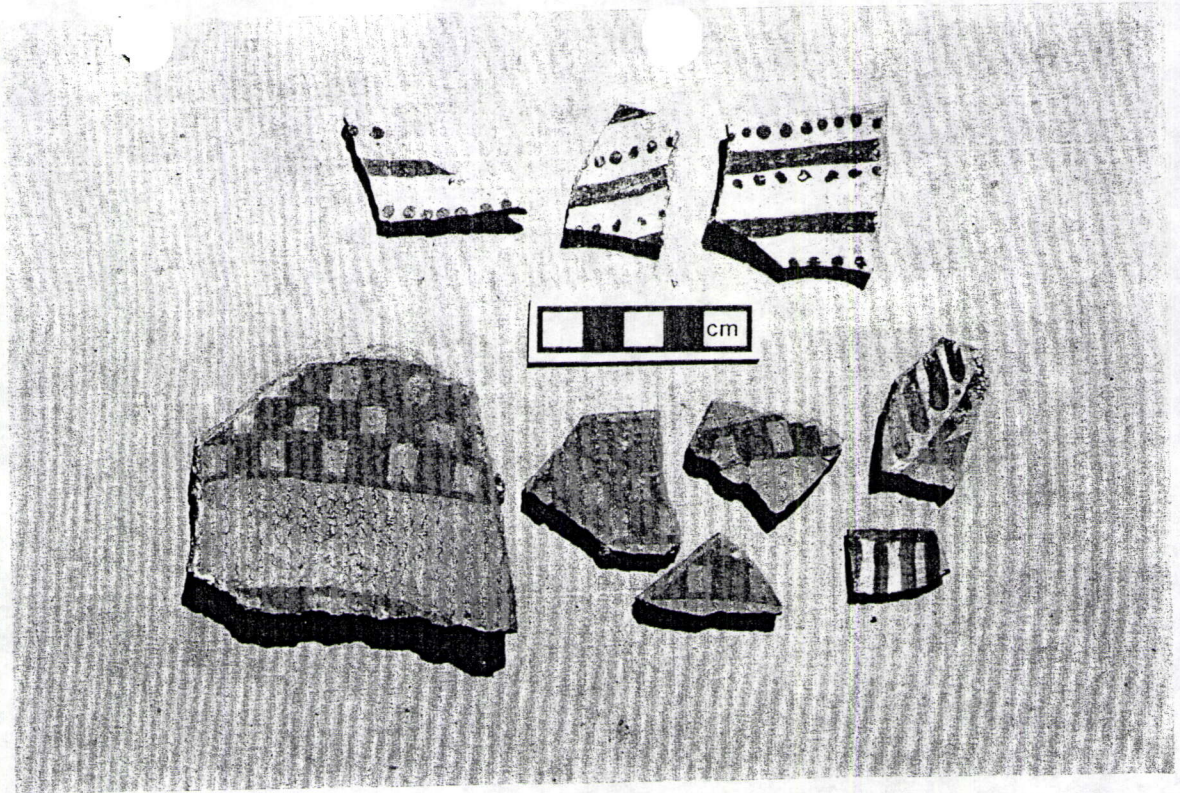
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Upper: McElmo B/w bowl sherds, from ca. 15 m north and 20 m s of site center, . Rims up. (Photo #2/8)

Lower: Mancos B/w Dogoszhi style bowl sherds, all one vessel. Upper left and upper center are rim sherds, rim up. Note rim ticking on upper left sherd. (Photo #2/10)







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Mancos B/w bowl sherds. Upper row cf. Black Mesa style, same bowl; lower left & center checkerboard variety of cf. Black Mesa style bowls, subglazed paint; right center and lower right, undifferentiated style bowls. (Photo #2/12)